5 cities, 2 provinces reject call to ARMM

STORY ON PAGE A2

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Backpack of rock salt proves Ador's point

PERHAPS sensing that after yesterday's Senate hearing he would be left holding the bag, alleged civilian agent Angelo Mawanay, also

ADOR/ A16

'Jolina' brings rains, stalls Aetas' work

BY TONETTE OREJAS, *PDI C.Luzon Desk*
C. ESGUERRA AND C. BALANA

HEAVY rains and strong winds brought by tropical depression "Jolina" buffeted 10 Aetas on Mt. Pinatubo, delaying their dangerous mission to build a canal in the volcano's crater and drain its lake to avert flash floods in 12 Botolan, Zambales villages.

JOLINA/ A5

Senators send witness to jail

It's Loren versus Ador over smuggled cell phones

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

"I NEVER realized that telling the truth would put me in jail."

With these words, ex-civilian agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay was led away yesterday by Senate security to be detained in the chamber's premises.

Three Senate committees ordered Mawanay's detention for an indefinite period after he failed to substantiate his allegation that he had delivered smuggled cellular phones to Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda in December 1998.

His allegation against Legarda came to light during yesterday's eight-hour Senate hearing on the claim of military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus that Sen. Panfilo Lacson was engaged in the illegal drug trade, kidnapping and money laundering.

"He answered all the questions and when they didn't like (his answers), they ordered him detained," said lawyer Argee Guevarra, a member of Mawanay's legal support group.

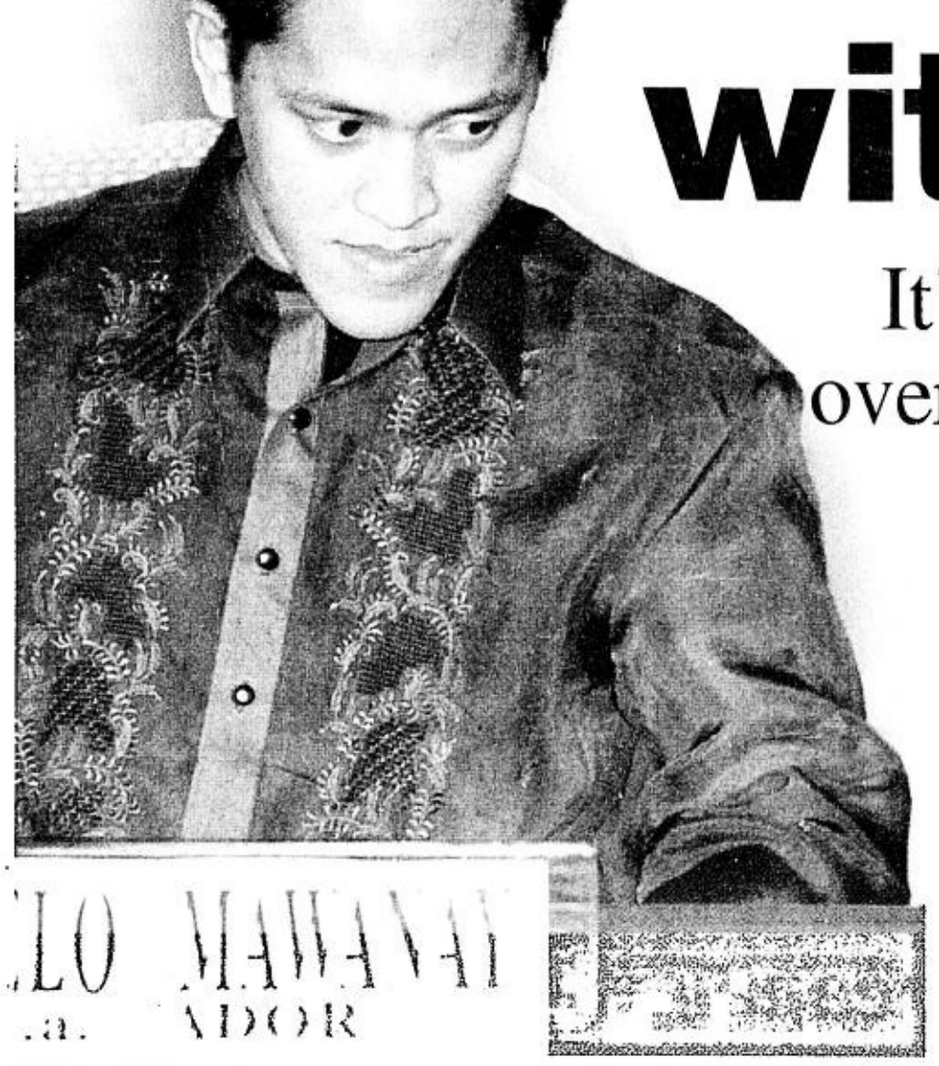
The lawyer's sentiment was echoed by anti-crime activist Dante Jimenez, who escorted Mawanay to his detention cell.

(See story on Page A16.)

"(This is) undemocratic, unjust and without due process. He's being treated like a criminal when he is the witness," Jimenez said.

Asked by reporters to comment on his detention, Mawanay said: "It's a good (birthday) gift from a

SENATORS/ A16



ADOR MAWANAY on his birthday detention: It's a good gift from a good senator. JESS YUSON

SEN. LOREN LEGARDA: Ridiculous, preposterous, if not amusing ... It's a fairy tale.

JESS YUSON

Corpus raked over the coals

BY ARMAND NOCUM
AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

A PAINED-LOOKING military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus yesterday switched roles from accuser to accused, as senators raked him over the coals during an inquiry into his allegations that Sen. Panfilo Lacson ordered summary executions and grew rich through kidnapping and drug trafficking.

"I (thought) that I'm the one investigating, and now, it turns out I'm the one being investigated," Corpus said at one point during the seven-hour grilling from senators of three committees.

Lasting from 9:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the hearing on the allegations against Lacson was sidetracked by, among other things, accusations against Senators Loren Legarda, Vicente Sotto III and Noli de Castro.

Lacson himself avoided a face-off, sending a letter saying he would not attend for reasons of "propriety" and would reserve his right to question his accusers during the Senate's "question hour" on Tuesday.

A show of unity—absent since the opening of the new Congress—reigned among the senators as they took turns grilling, and at times, ganged up on Corpus.

The head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) fanned the flames of his own pyre when he claimed knowledge of "bad eggs" in the Senate, the House of Representatives, the judiciary and media—a statement that almost resulted in his being cited in contempt.

Corpus had brought with him several witnesses and a videotape from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation reportedly containing incriminating evidence against Lacson, but these were never touched, according to administration Sen. Ralph Recto.

At the start of the hearing, Recto pointed out that the documents given to the Senate

CORPUS/ A4

YOU, RAM: We believe in Vic

BY NORMAN BORDADORA,
CARLITO PABLO
AND ARMAND NOCUM

"WE BELIEVE in Vic."

The Young Officers' Union (YOU) and the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) yesterday backed military intelligence chief Victor Corpus in his crusade against corruption in public office.

The YOU took the crusade a step further, giving a two-month ultimatum to corrupt government officials to either reform or resign, or to become the target of "active efforts" by the YOU to dislodge them from power.

"Our ultimatum is not only in word. Our ultimatum is backed by preparedness," Supt. Rafael Cardeño, chairman of the YOU, a group of junior military and police officers, said in Filipino in a news conference in Makati City.

"We will rid this government of corrupt officials," Cardeño said, adding that those who would not heed their call would be "personally" persuaded to leave office.

He said the young officers of the military and the police, along with their civilian allies, are prepared to make good their ultimatum in 60 days.

He said such groups as the Guardians and some personalities in RAM would assist them in ridding the bureaucracy of corrupt officials.

Cardeño did not elaborate on their plan, except to deny that the group would use arms. He also refused to divulge their targets, saying that the corrupt politicians

YOU/ A15

Psywar? Abu leader says he paid for escape

ABU Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya yesterday alleged that he had bribed the Army to let the bandit group and its hostages break out of a military cordon last June 2 in Lamitan, Basilan.

Sabaya's allegation, which he made in a phone interview with radio dzRH, backed an earlier statement of Basilan priest Cirilo Nacorda that certain military officers had colluded with the Abu Sayyaf.

"The soldiers were only 3 meters away . . . They didn't attack because that was the agreement," Sabaya, leader of a bandit faction holding 16 Filipinos and two Americans, was quoted by the Agence France Presse as saying.

He declined to identify any of the officers who might have received the alleged pay-off.

Sabaya said he had handed over a sum of money to a representative of Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar "to handle the military." He said the "agreement" was for the soldiers to

PSYWAR/ A4

AGREED, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay tells Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, who had requested that public hearings on the alleged connivance between some elements of the military and the Abu Sayyaf be held in Basilan. CHARLIE SACEDA

'I don't know whom to believe anymore'

BY MARTIN MARFIL,
ROCKY NAZARENO
AND AGNES DONATO

"I DON'T know whom to believe anymore. Everybody seems to have his or her own ulterior motive," said Fernando dela Torre, 31, a Tamaraw FX driver from Makati City who spent yesterday morning listening to a radio broadcast of senators questioning military intelligence chief Victor Corpus and ex-agent Angelo Mawanay, aka Ador.

Canteen owner Myrna De Guzman, 45, who watched the proceedings on television, said the Senate investigation should have focused on the charges against Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

"The senators lost their focus. The investigation should have focused on the charges. But some senators followed up other issues. I got a headache watching the hearing," De Guzman said.

As they did during the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, Filipinos from all walks of life tuned in yesterday to the Senate hearing on the allegations of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp) against Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, was one of those who missed the drama in the Senate. She told a press conference that she was unable to watch the hearing, which was aired live over television and radio, because she attended a Cabinet workshop.

But the President said that no sanctions would be imposed on Corpus, adding that his decision to investigate Lacson was a tactical decision that needed no permission from his superiors.

"Tactical decisions are (made) at the level of the head of the unit," the President said of Corpus' decision as Isafp chief to investigate Lacson, after one senator questioned Corpus' authority to order the probe.

The Palace issued a statement later in the day, saying that the

I DON'T/ A15

Second FRONT PAGE

Gloria: 'It was a religious vote'

5 cities, 2 provinces vote "No" to a call to ARMM

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

ON the first day of canvassing by the Commission on Elections in Manila yesterday, the "No" vote in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao plebiscite took firm shape. Five cities and two provinces officially rejected their inclusion in the proposed expansion of the ARMM, while Maguindanao, one of the four original ARMM provinces, voted to approve the expansion.

The cities of General Santos, Koronadal, Puerto Princesa, Dipolog and Dapitan and the provinces of Lanao del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay voted overwhelmingly against inclusion in the ARMM.

"It was a religious vote," President Macapagal-Arroyo said at a press briefing, explaining an apparent "No" majority of the 11 provinces and 14 cities included in the plebiscite.

The President was referring to the predominantly Christian population in most of the provinces and cities asked to join the ARMM.

Just the same, Macapagal said she was satisfied that the ARMM was likely to have three new members after the plebiscite. On Thursday, she told a national prayer breakfast that Basilan province, Marawi City and possibly Cotabato City had voted to join the ARMM.

Complete canvassing

The Comelec en banc, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers, resumes canvassing today. Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo said the canvassing of all 29 certificates of canvass may be finished by Monday.

In Maguindanao, some 175,883 voters said "Yes" to the ratification of Republic Act 9140, the new autonomy act that seeks to amend RA 6734, the law that created ARMM. RA 9140, passed by the previous Congress and signed into law by President Macapagal, seeks to expand the ARMM by including 11 provinces and 14 cities.

Only 68,285 in Maguindanao voted "No" against the expansion of the ARMM.

In General Santos City, official results showed 82,251 of the 83,344 voters who cast their votes voted "No." Only 1,275 voted "Yes."

In Koronadal City, 170 voted "Yes," while an overwhelming 33,288 voters said "No."

As earlier partial results indicated, Puerto Princesa City rejected inclusion in the ARMM. Only 402 voters wanted the city to be part of ARMM, while 35,763 voted "No."

Residents of Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte opted to remain outside of the ARMM, with 28,171 voting "No." Only 769 said "Yes." The "No" vote also prevailed in another city in the province, Dapitan City, where 22,073 voters chose "No" against 413 who chose "Yes."

The province of Lanao del Norte registered a strong "No" vote. A total of 136,600 voters said "No" against inclusion in the ARMM, as against 27,235 in favor.

The newly created province of Zamboanga Sibugay also rejected inclusion in the ARMM by a vote of 96,830 "No" against 6,843 "Yes."

Tourism impact

The looming "No" vote won't affect the government's tourism programs in Mindanao, tourism secretary Richard Gordon said yesterday.

"The tourism promotions program will remain on track. We are promoting a tourism scenario that is not dependent on the constitution of the ARMM, nor what provinces and cities refuse to be involved in them," he said.

Gordon said that tourism efforts in southern Philippines would still be intensified even as he expressed belief that the problem with the Abu Sayyaf Group would be solved in two to three months.

In her press briefing, President Macapagal said she does not know if the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is engaged in peace negotiations with the government and has signed a ceasefire agreement, would likely push for the inclusion of additional provinces and cities to the ARMM.

"I don't know what their negotiating stance is," she said. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Peso recovery elates Palace; 'thin' peace & order brings it down

BY JULIET LABOG JAVELLANA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

A PAT in the back for the peso's recovery but back to the drawing board for the administration's the peace and order flank.

This was how the scorecard for her administration appeared to President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday as she attributed the peso's recovery last week to "political will" on her part and that of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

But the President admitted that she considered her administration's peace and order program "thin" and called for the expansion of a two-day Cabinet workshop on good governance to address it.

Saying she hoped the recovery of the peso, whose value now stands at P51 to $1, would continue, the President warned currency speculators they would be charged with economic sabotage the next time they are caught red-handed.

A number of banks had been fined as much as P1 million recently for engaging in the speculative transactions that brought the peso down.

"This time the penalties are for documentary stamps. Next time it will be for economic sabotage," Ms Macapagal said at a Palace press conference.

Imposing the sanctions was the government's surprise move to arrest the fall of the peso.

On a visit to Malaysia earlier this month, the President also said she was mulling the idea of imposing currency controls similar to what Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad did to protect the Malaysian currency.

Yesterday she said she did not discuss currency controls with Mahathir.

Explaining her comments on the peace and order program, the President explained that the government was in the process of "redoing" its medium-term development plan.

Based on the goal of reducing poverty, the plan has four components: free enterprise in the 21st century; agricultural modernization founded on social equity; social bias to balance the economic plan; and good governance in the rule of law.

"When I put down part four—good governance in the rule of law—I saw that the portion on peace and order was quite thin," the President explained.

She decided on a combined Cabinet workshop-meeting and command conference "to flesh out that portion about peace and order," Ms Macapagal added.

She said the drug problem will also be discussed in the peace and order portion of the workshop.

Macapagal off to Brunei, and Singapore next week

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will make state visits to Brunei and Singapore next week.

Aides said she will be in Brunei on Aug. 22-24 and Singapore on Aug. 24-26.

Ms Macapagal returned from Malaysia last week where she began a customary tour of fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nations member countries.

The President told reporters that following a ceasefire with Moro separatist rebels that was signed in Malaysia, her Brunei visit is expected to strengthen trade and other links between rebellion-torn Mindanao and the contiguous areas of Brunei, Indonesia and Singapore.

Having drawn Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohamad's support during her Kuala Lumpur visit, Ms Macapagal said: "I hope to do the same in Brunei, especially since the sultan is looked upon as a leader of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area.

"For Singapore, the main theme would be information and communications technology," she said, adding that she will meet with senior minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Before the Brunei trip, Macapagal said she would host a visit by new Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

She said she expects to discuss three items with the Indonesian leader when she sets foot on Philippine soil.

The first would be the "renewal of a second-generation family friendship because our fathers were like brothers."

Their fathers, former presidents Diosdado Macapagal and Sukarno, ruled their respective countries in the early '60s. Along with Malaysia, the two countries eventually created Asean in 1967.

Ms Macapagal said she would also like to express to Megawati her "appreciation for Indonesia's support for our peace process and a hope that it would continue under her leadership."

Jakarta hosted peace talks between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front last year.

Thirdly, Ms Macapagal said, she would bring up "a fisheries agreement between Manila and Jakarta because we have common seas and tuna fishing is a very important industry in the southern Philippines." *AFP*

Anti-crime body marks 3rd year, cites PDI, reporter

THE VOLUNTEERS Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) marked its third anniversary yesterday by vowing to focus on the fight against illegal drugs, "narcopolitics" and drug-related crimes in its fourth year.

"The bulk of our heinous crimes trace their roots to illegal drug use so it would be a challenge for us to wage a bigger battle against illegal drugs," VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez told members and guests at the anniversary rites held in Malacañang.

Jimenez said he believes the system of drug enforcement in the country is "basically flawed," particularly in the area of prosecuting drug-related cases. He said the VACC has observed that procedures in the preservation and storage of drug evidence were "too loose that temptation is great."

The group cited the INQUIRER's role in the anti-crime campaign by giving it the Best Newspaper for Community Service award. INQUIRER Metro reporter Jerome Aning was cited as Most Outstanding Writer-Reporter for Community Service.

President Macapagal-Arroyo joined VACC members and guests in the Mass that preceded the program.

Guest speaker Justice Secretary Hernando Perez emphasized the importance of "actions over words" in the pursuit of justice. He lauded the VACC for collaborating with the PNP and government prosecutors in monitoring the "movement and vicissitudes" of criminal cases.

Others awarded by the VACC were Estrada impeachment witness Clarissa Ocampo, Judges Diosdado Peralta of Quezon City, Myrna Dimaranan-Vidal of Caloocan City, Luis Arranz of Manila and Modesto Juanson of Urdaneta City, Pangasinan; state prosecutors Belinda Sintay and James Viernes;

QC prosecutor Conrado Jamolin, Pangasinan prosecutor Ephraim Tombok, QC policemen SPO1 Wilfredo Gonzales and SPO3 Reynaldo Resurreccion, NBI head agent Sixto Comia, private lawyers Marites Barrios-Taran and Leonard de Vera, the NBI Special Action Unit;

South Korean consul Gyung Taek Cha, VACC Naga City-Camarines Sur chapter head Napoleon Mangete, VACC-National Capital Region volunteers Aida Versoza and Aurora Casem, radio station dzRJ and its anchor Rey Santos, ABS-CBN Channel 2 television and True Crimes host Gus Abelgas.

Given posthumous awards for law enforcement were SPO2 Ernesto Castillo of the Naga Police and PO3 Rolando Abello of the Manila Police.

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MARCOS LOOT

30 more 'old masters' worth millions of dollars missing–PCGG

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

A SECOND batch of valuable paintings worth millions of dollars has been lost on the trail of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth.

Aside from 23 paintings that have been missing since 1998, the Presidential Commission on Good Government is also searching for at least 30 more so-called "old masters" works owned by the Marcoses and their close friends.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said an ongoing inventory at the agency had yielded yet another set of paintings that the PCGG has failed to monitor or recover.

Carranza said the value of the artworks, which include 21 paintings by Grandma Moses and several Renoirs, would run into millions of dollars.

"We're looking not just for paintings but for other movables, such as furnishings, even cooking utensils, which are surely expensive considering Imelda's taste," Carranza said.

He said the paintings were specified in a failed compromise agreement between the Marcoses and the PCGG under then chair David Castro in 1992.

The agreement would have provided for the transfer of the valuables "from their custodians in the United States (or whoever they may be at present) to the National Museum of the Philippines" in exchange for the Marcoses' immunity from criminal and civil suit.

The agreement covered two paintings by Pierre Auguste Renoir, 21 paintings by Grandma Moses and an unspecified number of works by Jan Steen, Pieter Brueghel, Dirk Hals, Robert Street, Henri Matisse and Antonio Moro.

Also covered were the "remainder of paintings taken from the Metropolitan Museum" and icons numbering about 400 taken from Malacañang after the Marcoses fled.

The compromise did not push through, however, and the PCGG has no idea now where the paintings were being kept or who was holding them, Carranza said.

"It was Imelda who was supposed to tell them where the paintings were located, but the compromise did not push through," he said.

He said Imelda did not name names in the agreement but had apparently only agreed to name the custodian and facilitate the transfer.

Carranza said the PCGG would thoroughly review its documents, 29 boxes of which arrived last week from its former US offices, to confirm the disappearances and gather more data.

Carranza added that the PCGG could also seek help from the Art Register, an organization of museums, galleries and collectors that keeps track of valuable paintings.

Picasso's "Head of a Woman," worth $1 million, was recovered through the Art Register. It is now the subject of an ownership dispute in a New York court (not Hawaii as earlier reported) between the Marcoses and the 10,000 Marcos rights abuse victims.

He said the PCGG would also monitor the auctions of the Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses to ensure that the Marcos loot would not be sold to private bidders.

The PCGG is also seeking the recovery of 23 paintings by Claude Monet, Paul Klee and Edgar Degas estimated to be worth around $20 million.

These were the paintings that the PCGG had seized from the Marcoses' houses in the United States, but which have been "lost."

5 Bangladeshis refused entry

AIRPORT immigration authorities yesterday barred five Bangladeshi nationals from entering Manila after they could not justify their visit to Mindanao.

The five were booked on a return flight to Bangladesh minutes after they arrived aboard Malaysian Airlines.

The Bangladeshis, who said they were retired government officials and farmers, had planned to stay in the country for two months visiting friends in Manila and Marawi City.

"We're going to meet and talk with our Muslim brothers," one of them said.

Immigration officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, however found their explanation unsatisfactory and issued an exclusion order against them, immigration officer Rudy David said.

The Bangladeshis had visitors' visas issued by the Philippine consulate in Dhaka. Abdul Alonto, president of the Jamiatul Al Islamia in Marawi City, had requested the issuance of such visas to them and sponsored their trip to the Philippines. *TJ Burgonio*

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Benipayo sacks Tancangco

BY G. LACUARTA

COMMISSION on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo has sacked Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco as chief of the poll body's modernization program, taking over the program himself just days before negotiations are to start with the winning bidder of the P6.5-billion voters registration ID project.

BENIPAYO

TANCANGCO

Tancangco yesterday showed reporters a copy of Benipayo's Administrative Order 01-2001 which she vowed to defy.

She insisted that she was designated to head the modernization committee by an en banc resolution of the Comelec under past chair Harriet Demetriou.

In his AO dated Aug. 14 but received by Tancangco only yesterday, Benipayo said he was assuming the chairmanship of the modernization committee and ordered Tancangco to surrender within 48 hours "all documents, records, and other papers of the committee in her possession."

"Definitely he will not get any single document from me within 48 hours as he had ordered," Tancangco said. "I will not comply with that order."

Tancangco said only the en banc, through a majority decision, may relieve her as chair of the modernization committee.

The committee oversees the implementation of the Comelec's three main projects—the Precinct Mapping and Voters Verification, Voters' Registration and Identification System (VRIS) and the Automated Counting and Consolidation of Results (Accors).

Tancangco said she would not have posed any objection to her relief if it had been deliberated on in the en banc and approved in a resolution.

"The Comelec en banc is a collegial body where matters are deliberated and decided collegially," Tancangco said. "Unfortunately, Benipayo does not provide the kind of leadership under which the seven of us will make decisions and not take matters on a personal level."

In his AO, Benipayo said Demetriou had merely delegated to Tancangco the "task of fulfilling" the Comelec's VRIS and automated counting projects.

Prosecutors twit Jinggoy for 'ploy'

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

STATE prosecutors yesterday chided former San Juan mayor Jinggoy Estrada for using his heart condition to try and sway the Sandiganbayan into granting him bail.

Deposed president Joseph Estrada's son and co-accused was virtually forcing the anti-graft court to leave the issue of his bail to the "opinion" of medical doctors, the prosecutors said.

They said Jinggoy apparently "resorted to medical maneuverings when it dawned on him that legal arguments would not move the honorable court to grant him bail."

The young Estrada's lawyers filed a second urgent motion for bail this week, citing his physician's recommendation that he be placed in a "normal environment" like his own home to reduce the risk of cardiac arrest.

The motion capitalized on the opinion of Dr. Roberto Atanacio, Jinggoy's doctor, that confinement at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center or the Makati Medical Center may not provide the stress-free environment "required by his ailment."

The defense, the prosecutors said, "brought (both the court and the prosecution) into the realm of medicine where only the opinion of a third party, like a doctor, has more weight."

Proof that Jinggoy may not be as sick as claimed by Atanacio was the "busy and hectic schedule" he kept during a six-day furlough in June when he wound up his affairs at the San Juan municipal hall.

"The entire nation observed that he is even more healthy than his father, and mentally sound . . . ," said the opposing motion signed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. and special prosecutor Leonardo Tamayo.

The prosecutors asked the court to tap "independent doctors," preferably from the Philippine General Hospital, to confirm Atanacio's opinion that a hospital is not the normal environment for the accused.

Gloria slams cloning: Baby should be conceived in love, not in a cold lab

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged Congress to pass laws against the cloning of human beings, saying her administration is strongly against it.

She said a baby should be conceived in love and not manufactured in a cold laboratory.

"Human cloning should be shunned as a curse like abortion," Ms Macapagal said, adding that embryonic research even for medical purposes should also be prohibited.

She said human cloning is against the laws of God and nature.

"Human cloning should be opposed not just on the basis of our faith but also morality. Let us not give to scientists the power to change the nature that defines our world and to convert human beings into objects," she said.

Ms Macapagal took note of recent newspaper reports that three scientists in Washington are planning to produce a human clone by implanting a cloned human embryo into a woman's uterus.

The President noted that scientists would create the embryo by fertilizing a female egg with generic material taken from stem cells.

"This administration is opposed to human cloning," she said. "I am opposed to creating an individual through artificial means."

"Human cloning is against the laws of God. It is against the laws of nature. A baby is born of parents with the help of God through the natural process of a male sperm fertilizing the female egg. A baby is born out of love and not through the cold apparatus in a laboratory," she said.

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Corpus raked over the coals

(From page A1)

on the allegations against Lacson came from the camp of Lacson himself. The documents detailed the chronology of Corpus' allegations against the senator.

For the first five hours, senators queried Corpus on his bungling in terms of the now infamous "wrong Kim Wong" photo, the authority of the Isafp to handle the investigation of Lacson, and the reasons for his leaking intelligence findings on Lacson's alleged money-laundering activity to the media.

It was not until around 2 p.m. that the questioning focused on the allegations of Isafp star witness, Angelo Mawanay, against Lacson.

"The way we handed it this morning was not so good. There were so many more useless questions than there was serious appreciation of the evidence," said Recto, who butted into the discussions about three times to say that the questions were distracting from the issue of Lacson's alleged illegal activities.

According to him, too much time was used up by senators pointing to procedural lapses in the investigation of Corpus, his accountability, credibility and motives.

"They immediately hit on the credibility of Corpus without us listening first to what he or the other witnesses had to say," he said.

Interviewed after the hearing, Corpus said he did not mind being subjected to an "inquisition."

"It's good that this thing happened. It's good that they are asking the hardest questions," he said, adding that he considers this a "part of the process."

In his opening statement before the Senate panels, Corpus said he had submitted documents and brought along witnesses to prove Lacson's alleged involvement in money laundering, illegal drug operations, summary executions, bank robbery, and kidnapping activities.

"I have been challenged for fabricating evidence (sic). Today, I am prepared to present to you evidence to assure you that our investigation is based solely on reliable information and on evidence," he said.

The witnesses, Corpus said, would link Lacson to the summary execution of suspected Kuratong Baleleng gang members in 1995.

The witnesses were Senior Insp. Abelardo Ramos, former police Insp. Ysmael Yu, SPO1 Wilmor Medes and former civilian agent Mario Enad.

None of them got the chance to speak.

Corpus said he had more witnesses to present who will testify that ousted President Joseph Estrada, businessman Charlie "Atong" Ang and Lacson are the true leaders of the Kuratong Baleleng.

He said he will also present at least seven more new accounts of Lacson, apart from eight accounts containing $211 million that he has already listed as belonging to the senator.

But at one point in the hearing, Corpus admitted that his documents were "unofficial and not admissible as evidence" in court.

He said, during Lacson's time as PNP chief, there was a "proliferation of domestic distribution as well as international shipments of illegal drugs (that) has endangered the very survival of the country. One in every 42 Filipinos is a drug addict."

Lacson has repeatedly denied the accusations and has promised to prove the allegations wrong.

Opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon immediately took offense to Corpus' allegation that there were "bad eggs" in Congress, the judiciary and the media, ordering Corpus to "name names" as he accused the colonel of trying to destroy democratic institutions.

Corpus at first declined, saying that while he has files on these people, revealing these would be tantamount to "creating more enemies."

The remark drove an enraged Biazon, fellow opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and administration Sen. Robert Barbers to compel him to identify the allegedly corrupt judges, legislators and journalists.

At one point, Biazon threatened to move for Corpus' detention in the Senate.

The Isafp chief asked the senators to give him two weeks to prepare a list of these people. The matter was finally resolved when he agreed to reveal names during the Senate's question hour next Tuesday.

The senators went to an executive session after the hearing, but Biazon said Corpus gave no names.

Senate Majority Leader Legarda and Senator De Castro, both administration senators, joined in the heated grilling of Corpus when the Isafp's star witness Angelo Mawanay, aka Ador, accused them of wrongdoing.

Corpus also earned the ire of Pimentel, who pointed out in the colonel's prepared statement, he had appealed to the senators to help him in his investigation of Lacson or "join him."

"You can either help in stopping him or you can join him. The decision is yours to make," Corpus had said.

And after being bombarded for hours by questions that had little to do with the issue of Lacson's alleged money laundering and drug trafficking, Corpus said: "You, as senators, should help in this campaign, not protect your own kind, your honor."

This comment earned Corpus a sharp rebuke from Pimentel, who said he found the statement "insulting," and accused Corpus of implying that "unless we see things through your eyes," the senators were on Lacson's side.

There were instances when party lines were drawn, such as when Recto and opposition Sen. Robert Jaworski clashed over the Senate's decision to detain Mawanay for contempt.

Recto had asked his fellow senators during the hearing whether the order meant that the senators thought the former civilian agent was lying.

Apparently thinking that Recto was objecting to Mawanay's detention, Jaworski asked the neophyte senator to give his colleagues "due respect" since they were not being investigated.

Opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta also grilled Corpus on his authority to order a team to investigate Lacson in the United States.

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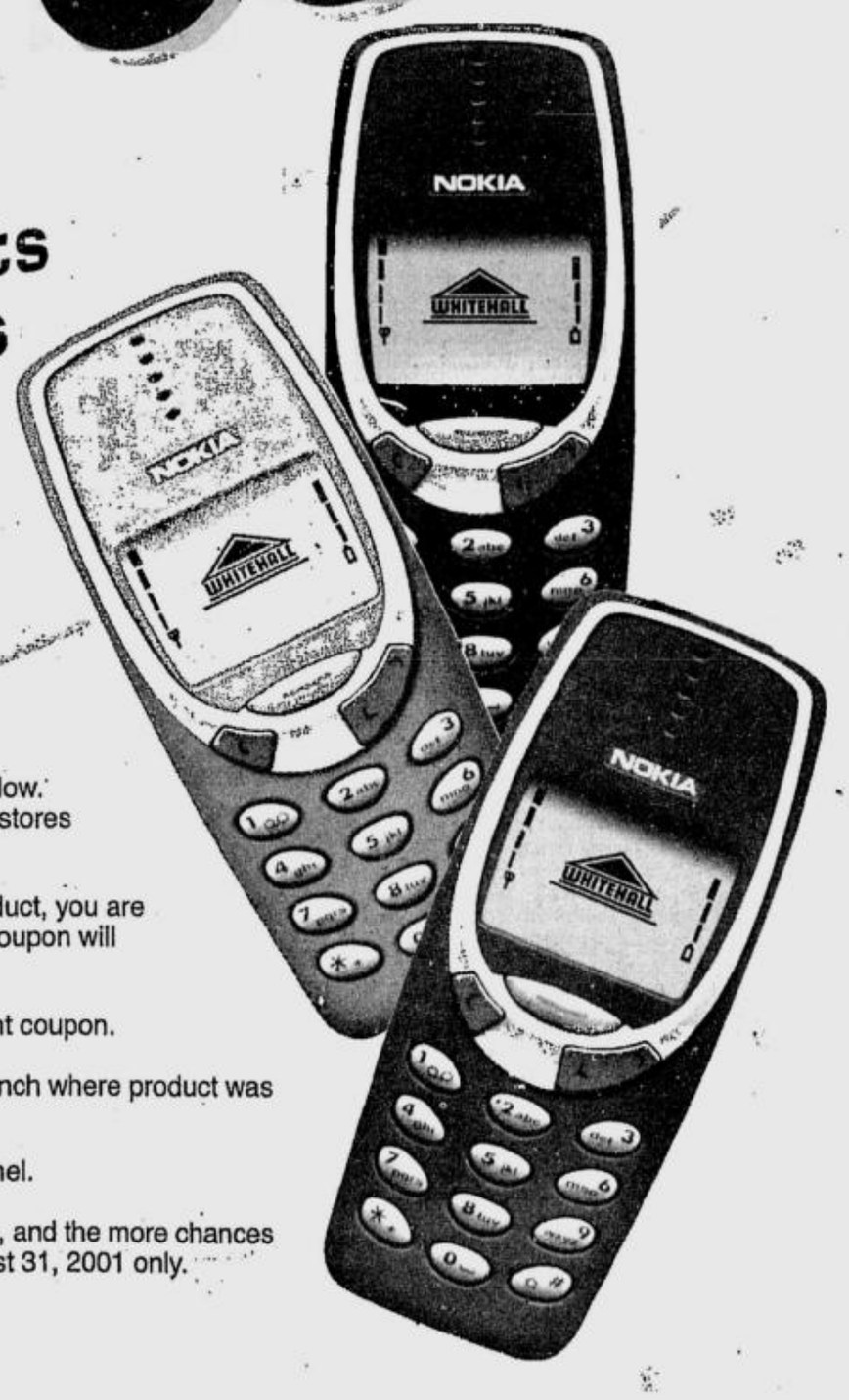

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Psywar? . . .

(From page A1)

let the bandits slip through the military cordon around the Lamitan hospital.

The military and Akbar immediately rejected Sabaya's allegations.

"The terrorists have made up all these accusations because these are propaganda aimed at destroying the integrity of the military," said Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias, head of the civil relations group in the South.

Akbar said Sabaya's claim was part of psychological warfare designed to derail military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

He also said the bandit group was trying to destroy his reputation because he had been a longtime opponent of the armed group.

Sabaya's claim that he enjoys the protection of certain military officers appears to dovetail with an account by Jose Torres, who wrote the first book-length account of last year's kidnapping of 53 Filipino hostages based on extensive interviews with some of the hostages.

In his book, "Into the Mountain: Hostaged by the Abu Sayyaf," Torres said a Basilan hostage had recounted to him how Sabaya would speak via satellite telephone with a supposed military officer to coordinate the bandit group's pull-out from a hideout, shortly before it was pounded by artillery and captured by the Army.

Several of the teachers abducted last year from a Basilan school in April recounted to Torres how the gang walked past five military detachments in full view of Army sentries, who let them pass.

'Let's wait'

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declined to comment on the allegations made in Torres' book.

"Let's just wait for the results, for the evaluation of the entire inquiry," she told reporters.

She said she and her Cabinet would meet with the military brass later yesterday to discuss security problems, including the hostage crisis that had been festering since last May.

Last week, the President ordered an investigation of Nacorda's claim that five military officers, including Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, pulled out troops who had encircled the bandits inside the Lamitan hospital.

Dominguez has denied the charge.

The Young Officers' Union (YOU) yesterday said its members were still backing Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva despite reports linking them to alleged corruption in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeño said the organization was also giving Dominguez and the four other officers the benefit of the doubt pending the results of the investigation.

"Let us first have the results of the investigation before we issue statements against anybody," Cardeño said.

He disowned a statement attributed to the organization that called for the resignation of Reyes and Villanueva in connection with the alleged collusion of the Abu Sayyaf and the military in Basilan.

Out of Basilan

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER in Zamboanga City, Governor Akbar expressed the belief that the Abu Sayyaf's remaining hostages had been taken out of Basilan.

"We no longer know where the hostages are, and I have a feeling that they are now in another province," he said in Filipino.

Akbar said it was easy for the Abu Sayyaf to come and go. "They can do that even 20 times a day if you're talking of only two hostages," he said.

Akbar said the primary advantage of the Abu Sayyaf was that its speedboats could outpace even the fastest watercraft of the Philippine Navy.

But Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the AFP Southern Command, said: "We cannot reveal the whereabouts of the bandits and their hostages so as not to affect the ongoing operations. As far as the military is concerned, they are still in Basilan."

The AFP has deployed about 5,000 troops in Basilan to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf and rescue the hostages.

The hostages are: Angie Montealegre, Ma. Fe Rosadeno and missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, seized from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27; Deborah Yap, Reina Malonzo, Sheila Cabunyag and Joel Juilo, from the Jose Torres Hospital in Lamitan on June 2; and Rodrigo Salon, Reynaldo Ariston, Abdul Tata Mohammad, Roel Abeylon, Michael Abeylon, Faisal Benasing, Ruben Valdesamor Jr., Bertab Benasing, Sardy Benasing and Marlon Dinaganon, from the Golden Harvest plantation in Lantawan on June 11. ***Reports from AFP; Martin P. Marfil and Norman Bordadora in Manila; Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Jolina' brings rains, stalls Aetas' work

(From page A1)

"The weather is bad. The rains and the wind are strong. We could not proceed with the work," Willy Bulanhigan, the leader of the Aeta laborers, reported in Filipino from a two-way radio system set up at the volcano's peak.

In Metro Manila and Bulacan, classes were suspended due to flooding. High tide aggravated the flooding in Malabon and Navotas. In some areas in Malabon and Valenzuela, floodwaters reached up to the chest.

Malacañang suspended work in all government offices effective 12:01 p.m. yesterday.

Hundreds of commuters were stranded as passenger vehicles refused to ply their routes due to the floods.

At around 10 a.m., the education department cancelled classes in Metro Manila public and private schools. The declaration came later than the 5 a.m. announcement of suspension of classes that was previously agreed upon by the DECS and metro mayors.

Stranded

About 30 minutes later, the Commission on Higher Education suspended classes in the tertiary level. But it came a little late for college students who had gone to school as early as 7 a.m. and were stranded in the streets on their way back home.

Before noon, several families living near a river in Tala, Caloocan, were evacuated after strong current threatened to sweep their shanties.

The Monumento Circle, J.P. Rizal in Maypajo, Lascano corner Letre Road, Libis Talisay, Samson Road corner Dagohoy Street, Sabalo in Dagat-Dagatan, Tanigue, and the Caloocan-Valenzuela boundary in Kaybiga were under knee-deep floodwater, police said.

In Valenzuela, several major roads connecting at least 17 barangays were not accessible to light vehicles due to knee- to waist-deep floodwater, local officials said.

The Tullahan River that separates Malabon and Valenzuela overflowed for the second consecutive day, flooding the Tullahan Bridge on MacArthur Highway.

At least 31 villages in Obando, Hagonoy, Meycauayan and Marilao in Bulacan were under 2 feet of floodwater. Classes in elementary and high schools in these towns were suspended.

Lahar

In Pampanga, rains sent lahar flows along the Gugu River in Bacolor town, according to geologist Kelvin Rodolfo.

Traffic was snarled along the San Fernando stretch of the MacArthur Highway in the province because of knee-deep floodwater.

There was also a massive traffic jam at the South Luzon Expressway caused by two vehicular accidents at the northbound portion of the highway.

A pickup truck collided with a shuttle bus at around 8 a.m. at a slippery portion of the highway in San Pedro, Laguna. At the same spot 30 minutes later, another pickup collided with a Nissan Sentra.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, "Jolina," packing center winds of 55 km per hour, was spotted 170 km northwest of Iba, Zambales, or 120 km west of Vigan, Ilocos Sur. It was slowly moving toward Southern China.

It was forecast to be 500 km west northwest of Vigan by this afternoon.

Another typhoon

Another typhoon, "Pabuk," was estimated at 1,640 km east of extreme northern Luzon with maximum sustained winds of 130 kph near the center. It was forecast to move west northwest toward Southern Japan.

"Jolina" and "Pabuk" will continue to induce rains especially in the western section of the country. Residents in these areas have been advised to watch out for floods and landslides.

On Mt. Pinatubo, the Aeta tribesmen, along with porters, engineers and two local town councilors, hunkered down on the volcano's crater as "Jolina" hit the area.

After reporting that the rains and winds were strong and that they could not proceed with their work, Aeta leader Willy Bulanhigan's radio signal went choppy, turned faint and then was cut off.

There was no way to reestablish contact with them, said Botolan Mayor Roger Yap.

Canal workers

The Aetas, under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways, were the advance party of a team of 100 Aetas who will construct the canal.

Through the canal, the DPWH will gradually release at least 15 million cubic meters (mcm) from the total 210 mcm of rainwater that accumulated in the lake since the volcano erupted 10 years ago, said DPWH Assistant Secretary Florante Soriquez.

The group is expected to finish the initial work in one week.

The team has pitched camp at the O'Donnel notch, which has a flat terrain, on the Tarlac side of the volcano, Yap said.

He said the municipal government was also constructing a campsite below Villar, 15 km from northeast of the notch, to monitor Bulanhigan's team.

DPWH's Soriquez said they have yet to secure funding for the Pinatubo canal. He said DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong has yet to sign their request for P13.7 million.

Of this amount, P2.3 million will be spent for the construction of the canal, largely to be accomplished through manual labor. The rest of the money will be used to repair the 6.2-km length of the Bucao Dike, which directs lahar and floodwaters away from the villages into the South China Sea. *With reports from Blanche Rivera in Manila; Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AP*

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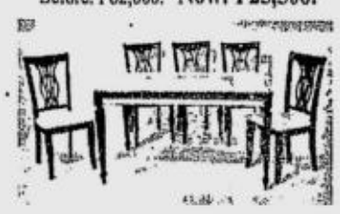

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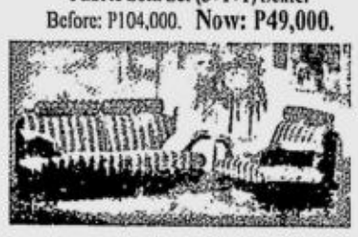

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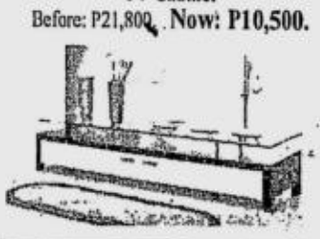

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Borderless crimes

IN A SPEECH to the Philippine Bar Association last Wednesday, Michael Malinowski, chargé d'affaires of the US Embassy in Manila, warned that transnational crime would be the defining issue for the 21st century for legal systems and lawmakers. Transnational crime is defined to include terrorism, drug trafficking and money laundering. Transnational crime organizations—the syndicates, triads, Yakuza and drug cartels—control billions of dollars, he said. "At the hands of criminals, these enormous economic assets can erode the credibility of governments, destroy people's confidence in democratic institutions and corrupt entire societies."

EDITORIALS

The significance of Malinowski's speech is that it was delivered amid disclosures in the press of military intelligence reports alleging that Sen. Panfilo Lacson laundered huge sums of money in a number of foreign countries, including the United States. The Senate is investigating the allegations to determine whether they have factual basis. The reports have also been referred to the Office of the Ombudsman which must now determine whether there is evidence to warrant criminal prosecution.

Nothing in Malinowski's speech suggests that organized transnational crime has made a foothold in this country. The speech is useful, however, as a backdrop to the threat posed by borderless crimes to undermine democratic institutions, legal processes and financial systems.

Malinowski highlighted three points in his speech. The first is that the Philippines "can count on the US to work along with you" to resist "inevitable attacks by transnational criminal organizations." The Philippines and the United States have broad programs of cooperation to enhance their ability to fight transnational crime.

The second point is the need for Philippine legislation to support international efforts to curb the laundering of dirty money that moves across national borders.

And the third underlines the fact that the Philippines should now act on a US request to extradite Mark Jimenez, who is now a member of the House of Representatives. A fugitive from US justice, Jimenez faces charges of income tax fraud and illegal campaign contributions. Jimenez used his closeness to then President Joseph Estrada to fend off extradition requests.

Malinowski pointed out that although the United States has made requests for the extradition of several fugitives under the 1996 extradition treaty, no one has been returned to the United States, including Jimenez. By contrast, the United States has returned a multiple homicide fugitive to the Philippines after the Federal Bureau of Investigation apprehended the wanted person.

We presume that it was under the terms of the Philippine-US cooperation program on providing information on money laundering that the US State Department has supplied the National Bureau of Investigation with documents showing that Lacson had deposited "substantial amounts" in undisclosed US banks.

Additionally, Al Santoli, senior national security and foreign policy adviser to US Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, has issued a statement to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), saying that US law enforcement agencies "are involved, in cooperation with the Philippine government" in the investigation of Lacson and Estrada "based on very real evidence of large amounts being transferred into US banks."

Test case

FRESH pressure on the Philippine government to act on the US request for the extradition of Jimenez indicates that it cannot be dealt with in isolation from the international effort to combat transnational crime. The Jimenez extradition request is a test for the Philippine-US extradition treaty whose terms so far have been complied with by the United States but not by the Philippines. Now that Jimenez no longer falls under the protective wings of Estrada, who has been deposed as president, Philippine implementation of the treaty can no longer be delayed. The US request for his extradition can no longer be ignored.

As to money laundering, one might expect more evidence from the US government to corroborate allegations now being investigated by the Senate. Beyond that, Congress should consider legislation that incorporates our legal and police enforcement system into the international network fighting organized transnational crime.

'I want to get married'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS a father whose six children are now all married, I have special memories about how each of them informed me of their marital intentions. I myself felt no discomfort in telling my parents that I wanted to get married because my friend Nonoy simply announced it to them without any foreword or warning. I didn't have to do it myself. In gratitude, I made him my best man.

In the case of my children, each of them directly disclosed their plans to me, and with varying degrees of ease or awkwardness. I was not exactly unprepared because I knew more or less what was coming. But the manner of their telling was, one might say, not conventional and in every single case unique. I recall them now with quiet amusement.

The first one of my children to get married was Claro, my second son. His elder brother tipped me that Claro wanted to talk to me and, sure enough, he made an appointment to see me the next day in my office. Not at home, mind you, where he was still living at the time but in my office, as if for a business conference. It was, from his viewpoint, a serious interview that required the privacy, no less, of my law office.

When he arrived, he sat down and went straight to the point. He said he wanted to marry Karen, an officemate from Bacolod who was an alumna of the College of the Holy Spirit. Of course, I asked him if she was beautiful, and he assured me she was. I asked him if he was financially prepared, and he said yes. I asked him when they planned to be married, and he gave me the date and other details. I then said all right and ended the conference that took some five minutes more or less.

"Is that all?" he asked, unbelieving and vaguely disappointed. I said yes. I learned later that he had prepared to plead his case in anticipation of a long interrogation from me, as in a court hearing. It must have been somewhat frustrating to him when I said, like a judge dispensing with the usual arguments, "Granted." All of his rehearsals had been wasted.

Cesar was the next to marry, but he was not as formal in seeking my permission. It was a Sunday morning and I was reading the papers in our patio when he came out of his room and said casually, "Dad, steady *lang kayo diyan at may lakad tayo*." I looked at him quizzically because I did not see why I should be excited about anything. He startled me the next moment when he added, "We're going to Annie's house by-and-by to ask for her hand in marriage." I was still in a daze when we met her family for the first time that afternoon.

My third son Celso was the next to get married, at a time he was reviewing for the bar examinations. I said the timing was impractical and suggested that he concentrate first on his review instead of distracting himself with his wedding plans. He dissented. He argued that he could study better after he had settled down with Alma because he would then have nothing more to bother about except the tests. "You're thinking only of the bar examinations," he lectured me, and added the clincher, "but what about the *romance*?" And so I was unhorsed, Celso got married, and passed the bar exams.

There was not much problem with Caloy, my fourth son because he and Maybelle chose to marry after he had passed his bar examinations. Our family and hers were friends, and I do not recall that a single word was said about their marriage when we met for the traditional *pamanghikan*. What I do remember is that Caloy surprised me when he asked to pay for the reception himself, to which I readily agreed. The catch, as I learned later, was that they were inviting only their friends, excluding ours and even some relatives. I offered to pay for the traditional guests, but Caloy informed me (triumphantly, I felt) that there was no more room for them. It did turn out to be a very happy wedding with only the young people having a good time among themselves.

Gani, my youngest son, had a different experience. His fiancée was a girl who, as it happened, was the daughter of a close friend and classmate of mine in law school. When they decided to get married, Melanie dutifully reported this to her only brother Willie, who asked about her intended husband. She began with, "Do you remember Daddy's friend at the MLQ, Isagani Cruz?" Before she could continue, her aghast brother shouted with pure terror. "He's OLD!" It was only after she explained to him that she was marrying my son and not me that Willie's blood pressure returned to normal.

My singular recollection about Candy's marriage to Tonio is that when his father came to our house to get our consent, he was self-composed enough as he began his mission. In the process, however, he became nervous and said that, after considering Candy's qualities, he "had no objection to her." That astounded me. I thought to myself that it was I who should be saying this about his son, but I courteously kept my peace. I mentioned that faux pas only to my wife Sally, and in fact, this is the first time Candy and Tonio are learning about it.

I can say, with not a little smugness, that when my five sons got married, each of them waited properly at the altar as his lovely bride approached. Not a single one of them marched down the aisle with Sally and me on either side of him as if we were escorting him to the guillotine. That vulgar innovation in many weddings now is comical, more so since the bride is escorted only by her father, while the husband-to-be appears to need both of his parents to prop him up to a reluctant fate.

The postscript to these recollections is that my wife and I now have five grandchildren, 3 boys and 2 girls, not counting our very first grandson, who drowned when he was only 4. Powee would have been 22 this year. We agree, of course, that *"mas mahalaga ang tubô sa puhunan"* (the interest is more valuable than the principal) but only in the sense that we are able to give more attention now to our grandchildren than we could give our children before.

When our children were growing up, I was busy making a living, and Sally a home, mainly for their own welfare and future. We had to divide our time between them and our respective tasks to make a happy family. Now that my wife and I are more or less retired and have time on our hands, we can devote it fully, their own parents permitting, to our grandchildren's *pleasure*. This means we can and do spoil them a bit, as grandparents do.

The trial of Victor Corpus

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

VICTOR Corpus was pilloried yesterday in the Senate. He never really got around to giving the evidence he wanted to give against Panfilo Lacson, which was all he really wanted to do and was prepared to do.

But politics reared its ugly head. His motives were impugned, his authority to conduct the investigation was doubted. It was implied that he had abused his authority by keeping senators and their employees under surveillance. There were repeated attempts to show that he could not have been operating without the express orders of the President,

As if that were not enough, it was asked, nay, demanded of him that he "substantiate" his statements about corruption in the media, in the Senate, in the judiciary, by naming names, no less, before any further progress could be made. In other words, he was being asked to do the impossible.

In the process, the charges against Lacson were forgotten—which one suspects was the aim in the first place. Instead the proceedings turned into the trial of Victor Corpus. The other aim being to destroy Corpus' credibility.

His statement that there was no political motive behind his actions was ignored. His explanation that his sole motive was to call public attention to the danger of the Philippines turning into a narco-state like Colombia, with drug money influencing election outcomes, fell on deaf ears.

I guess some politicians, accustomed as they are to empty words and broken promises, cannot recognize sincerity or conviction when they finally meet up with it. Or if they felt it, or recognized it, they didn't seem to know what to do with it. It was belittled, doubted, treated with condescension, or given no more than lip service.

It is entirely possible that the Senate, or more accurately some senators, will succeed in protecting Lacson from a Senate investigation, or maneuver it so he gets off scot-free (according to Sen. Serge Osmeña, no senator subjected to an investigation has ever been found guilty or penalized).

But it is going to be much harder to destroy Corpus' credibility, particularly when compared to that of Lacson. While it is possible, at this point, that the whole truth about the charges against Lacson has not and may never come to light, while there are holes in both their positions, there can be no doubt that Corpus, at the very least, is by far the more credible of the two. Why?

First, while his detractors consider his defection to communism and his subsequent return to be signs of betrayal and weakness, I have a different view. I think it shows that he had convictions, and the courage to live by those principles, even at great sacrifice. In his case, it was turning his back on a promising military career to live in the mountains. It took even more courage to admit his mistake, and pay for it with 10 years in prison.

It is obvious that his colleagues hold him in the greatest respect. Moreover, not a hint of irregularity or violation of human rights has ever sullied his record in the military.

Second, it is clear that he is living within his means. There is no evidence of a luxurious lifestyle which might have weakened him and made him susceptible to temptation. He lives in a military housing unit inside a camp. He cannot afford to buy a house in the United States and has no foreign bank accounts in either his or his wife's name.

Third, he is painfully honest (which what has gotten him into trouble). He immediately admitted his mistake in the Wong incident. He was also very forthright in articulating his concerns about the justice system in the Philippines (which are valid, lack of evidence notwithstanding).

It is particularly ironic that Lacson has expressed his outrage about this, calling into question Corpus' loyalty, even his patriotism, for daring to question the justice system and for preferring to go first to the court of public opinion. After all, wasn't it Lacson's boss, then Vice President Joseph Estrada, who spoke about "hoodlums in robes"? If Lacson disagreed, he certainly kept quiet about it then.

Wasn't it his two principal aides, Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino, who escaped from the Philippines, because, as one of them explained, they knew they weren't going to get a fair deal? Lacson obviously didn't try to dissuade them. (He admits he knew that they were leaving. Doesn't that make him an accessory to their flight?)

And didn't Lacson himself take to flight, or go into hiding, not once, but twice (the first time during the Ramos administration, the second time just last May) when the authorities were looking for him, also because he felt he would be getting a bum deal from them?

A credible hypocrite is an oxymoron.

The fourth reason one finds Corpus so credible—and would be so even without the other three—is that he needs this kind of controversy like he needs a hole in the head. There is no personal gain in it for him. On the contrary, there may be great personal loss, because taking on a senator, antagonizing other senators, is tantamount to throwing away any chance for his promotion to general.

Yet he is doing it, taking the brickbats, the catcalls, the vicious attempts to besmirch his reputation in stride. Clearly what is driving him is not concern for his well-being, but rather concern for the well-being of his country.

And that is the stuff of which heroes are made.

Intelligence operates in unconventional ways

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT THE SENATE yesterday morning, where I sat in at the hearing of the committee on public order chaired by Sen. Robert Barbers that lasted five hours, the joke went around that in the organization of the chamber it was proposed that Sen. Panfilo Lacson be given the chairmanship of the committee on banks, inasmuch as he knows a lot about them. Of course, that did not happen as that committee went to Sen. Ramon Magsaysay. Another joke being passed around through text messages says that Lacson is difficult to reach these days since his phone has the Wong number.

* * *

The public order committee's mandate yesterday morning was primarily to look into the terrible faux pas committed by Col. Victor Corpus when he presented to the media the wrong picture of alleged drug lord Kim Wong. Corpus presented a photo of lawyer Stephen Villaflor, who happens to be Senator Barbers' deputy chief of staff.

But the two major bombshells at the hearing were dropped not by Corpus, but by former PAOCTF agent "Ador" Mawanay. Ador alleged that then PAOCTF Chief Lacson sent him to deliver personally to Sen. Loren Legarda some time in December 1998 1,000 pieces of smuggled cellular phones, for which she paid P8.9 million in check. Ador alleged that Legarda meant to give these away as Christmas gifts. In fact she had wanted them delivered individually wrapped, but Ador couldn't have it done. Legarda burst into unrestrained fury at this accusation and denied it vehemently, but Ador stuck calmly to his story, though he said he had no copy of the check payment.

In sympathy with his colleague, Minority Leader Nene Pimentel went into a spiel about defending the integrity of Senate members and then proposed that the witness whom Loren called "that character" be detained at the Senate jail under the supervision of the Senate sergeant-at-arms. No one among the senators questioned this summary detention.

* * *

Ador made things worse for himself by later repeating an accusation he made earlier on Arnold Clavio's TV program that then TV broadcaster Noli de Castro, who was in a Pajero, personally received from Lacson a huge amount of money contained in a shoebox some time in April 1999. Ador said he knew of it because he had accompanied the man who made the delivery and who is now dead. This matter was brought up when Corpus was queried about media members on the alleged payroll of Lacson. De Castro made an indirect denial of the alleged payola by stressing the fact that he had no Pajero, but Ador stuck to his charges.

* * *

That only firmed up the resolve of the senators to detain Ador. The proposal, however, was unpopular with a portion of the audience, which booed it. I myself was bothered at what appeared to be a fascistic move to harass someone who was invited as a witness to a hearing, after he accused two senators of wrongdoing. Legarda cited out a Senate rule to justify the detention, but there are legal ways of handling something like that, that won't be construed as harassment, e.g., filing a libel case. What it shows us ordinary mortals is that senators have become gods who cannot be crossed, and that they will always protect their own kind. Hearing the sentence passed on Ador reminded me of the way Rosanna Fores, Bettina Aboitiz and Dante Jimenez were summarily thrown out of the Senate, after Miriam Defensor-Santiago accused them of harassing her with their looks.

* * *

From their interpellation of Corpus and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, it was obvious that the senators were coming in from one end and didn't quite appreciate how intelligence agencies work. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was so concerned about "authority," "jurisdiction" and correct procedure. He queried Corpus on who gave him the authority to look for those alleged foreign bank accounts of Lacson, who gave him the clearance and travel orders and whether his team's trip was coordinated with the departments of justice, foreign affairs and national defense. Biazon also stressed that tracking down bank accounts containing alleged laundered money ought to have been the task of the NBI, while Corpus' Isafp should have been more concerned with arresting the handful of Abu Sayyaf who trained in Afghanistan and have entered the country.

* * *

Common sense, however, will tell anyone that if Corpus and his team had broadcast their every move to the various departments, they would have gotten nothing. Obviously something as sensitive as pursuing hot money can't be entrusted to an agency where one is unsure of everybody else. And as all those 007 films tell us, the essence of intelligence work is that it is unconventional and unstructured, and often operates outside the realm of regular "interagency coordination." It also thrives best in secrecy and compartmentalization—the need-to-know principle.

Tracking down hot money reminds me so much of the quest for the Marcos billions. To be sure, there was a lot of interagency coordination and coordination between Philippine and foreign counterparts in the recovery effort after the Edsa Revolution, but before all these, the Marcos money and properties had to be painstakingly identified, and this meant quiet, intelligence work by many individuals and groups abroad in the years before the Edsa Revolution. I can think of Washington-based Filipina lawyer Severina Rivera, New York-based Heherson Alvarez and Peter Cary of the San Jose Mercury News. Up to now it's still a hide-and-seek with the Marcos billions in the banks abroad.

* * *

As to which is the bigger threat between creeping "narco-politics" or the Afghan-trained Abu Sayyaf, Corpus said that the prospect of this country turning into another Colombia and electing leaders supported by the drug trade is the greatest threat to national security at the moment. He lamented that while it was he who had made the accusations against Lacson, it appears that he's the one on trial in the Senate.

Sen. Tessie Oreta tried very hard to make Corpus look like a crackpot, but she only succeeded in sounding flippant, as usual. She asked him if he was tortured while in detention during the Marcos years and if indeed he had the habit of "talking to the trees." She also recalled that when Ninoy Aquino, Corpus and Bernabe Buscayno were sentenced by a Marcos court to death by firing squad, Corpus was seen "laughing." She said this was a "most unusual reaction" from a doomed man. But Corpus corrected her by saying he was merely smiling at the kangaroo-type justice they got from Marcos.

A new book genre is born

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"ERAP books are selling very well," crows journalist, and now successful author Ellen Tordesillas. And of course she knows whereof she speaks. As co-author of the "behind-the-scenes" book "Hot Money, Warm Bodies," she is reaping the returns of the unfading interest in Juetengate, the impeachment trial, People Power II and its sequel.

Hoping to find some copies to send to relatives in the United States, I scoured the shelves of the National Bookstore at the Galleria, and could find none left. When I inquired with sales personnel, they helpfully offered to call other branches and informed me that they were able to track down one remaining copy at the Megamall branch. Ellen herself laughs that when she tried to buy some more copies for her own relatives, a salesgirl at the Megamall branch triumphantly held up their one remaining copy, which escaped purchase because it had been placed in the "business" section. "Hot Money" has since undergone its second printing, and on my last visit to National, there were lots of copies to be had.

Ellen relates that veteran journalist Alice Colet Villadolid, who with husband Oscar, a former journalist and ambassador, compiled their reports and columns on Erap's downfall into a book, "The Impeachment of a President," called her to say that the book is selling well, too. Perhaps the first book to exploit public interest in the events leading up to the fall of Erap is "EDSA 2: A Nation in Revolt." Described as a "photographic journal," it compiles the works of over 50 photographers, providing the public with a visual account of those memorable days. It begins by documenting Estrada's days in the presidency, then covers the Chavit Singson hearings and exposés, the subsequent protests they triggered, leading to the impeachment proceedings. The meat of the book, though, is a day-to-day photo album of the People Power protests, from the first night at the Edsa Shrine to the march to Mendiola and the Estrada family's forlorn departure from Malacañang.

Lending context, explanation, analysis and inspiration is the introductory and closing text by Sheila Coronel, who with her colleagues in the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism was decidedly at the center of the events chronicled in "EDSA 2." A sobering reminder of the "unfinished" business of this historic "street party," is the epilogue, on the arrest and imprisonment of the former president and the protests and attack on Malacañang that, to quote Coronel, "spoke eloquently, even painfully, of the alienation of the poor from the rest of society."

* * *

JOINING what seems to be an emerging genre in the book publishing industry is "People Power 2: Lessons and Hopes," published by ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. and edited by Thelma Sioson San Juan.

"Hot Money" banks on its insider accounts and the "*chismis* factor" to lure readers, while "People Power 2" relies in large part on the nostalgic appeal that would make it, for many who were at Edsa and the other protest sites, a "family album" of sorts. "People Power 2" seeks to combine the strong points of both, being filled with both analytical essays and revealing interviews as well as dramatic and historic photos.

"We wanted to go beyond the euphoria," San Juan told me at the book launching last Tuesday, held appropriately enough at the Edsa Shrine. Beyond the memories, they wanted to go deeper into the meaning of those events, into the "lessons it has raised and the hopes it has inspired." "EDSA 2" is thus divided into thematic sections. "Inside Stories" goes over what seems to be familiar ground by now, but in the retelling manages to provide juicy nuggets that will satisfy even the most gossip-hungry reader. "Hopes" is a photo gallery that brings those days back to life, culled from hundreds of possible contributions by photo editor Noli Yamsuan Jr. "Lessons" is a collection of essays by participants, scholars and observers that provide insights into the conditions that led to Erap's fall and explain why Filipinos of all ages but especially the young, were galvanized into action and anger.

There is even a brief epilogue, written by San Juan, that seeks to provide understanding for "People Power 2's" strange denouement, the "Edsa-puwera" farce of a protest and the May Day violence.

* * *

OF all the "Erap books," as Tordesillas calls them, "People Power 2" is easily the slickest production, a hefty coffee-table book that is just as substantial in its content and intent.

Among the better reasons for reading it: Manny Mogato's revelations about "movements" within the military and police long before Juetengate exploded; Peachy Yamsuan's detailed account, full of human interest and emotion, of the first meeting between Singson and Jaime Cardinal Sin and how the Church was drawn into the eye of the storm; Jesselynn Garcia de la Cruz's interviews with the brave witnesses at the impeachment trial, still living with the consequences of their actions today; and Isagani de Castro's retracing of the delicate political movements that led to the trial.

Of the essays containing "lessons" culled from those days in January, easily my favorite was that of Jessica Zafra. In "An ex-youth looks at People Power 2," Zafra writes how young people, who composed roughly 90 percent of the folks at Edsa Dos, "expressed themselves the way they knew how. They sang and danced. They wore black outfits and stayed out all night. They held a rave."

Have we put enough distance between today and that historic moment early in the year so that we can now behold it, laugh at it and take lessons from it? With the help of a whole slew of "Erap books," or "People Power albums," we are coming close to it. History may yet withhold its verdict on the wisdom of our actions, but for now, these books help us remember—so we may not forget.

Istanbul

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

"Oh, land of Byzantium, oh thrice-happy city, eye of the universe, ornament of the world, star shining afar, beacon of this lower world, would that I were within you..."—**12th Century, Anonymous**

ONE window of the hotel room faces the Bosphorus, while from the other window I can see the skyline of the ancient city of Constantinople with its minarets, cupolas and domes facing the Sea of Marmara where ships, barges and skiffs cross and recross continuously. It is a magical sight enhanced by seagulls flying by against a sky blue as forget-me-nots. Throughout the day, the air is rent with the sound of the *muessins* raising the traditional Muslim call to prayer.

It is the only city on earth that is both in Asia and Europe. Like Rome it has seven hills and seven mosques, rather than churches, on them. A parade of builders have left their mark on the architecture. Much of Ottoman art betray Gothic and Grecian antecedents with bas-reliefs of crescent moons added to acanthus motifs. The city is obviously Muslim today but it was the capital of Constantine's Holy Roman Empire, the capital city of Christendom before its fall to Islam. Prior to that, it had been Roman and not particularly holy and before that Greek and Hittite. As a matter of fact, at one point the eastern Mediterranean was almost entirely Christian when Christianity hadn't quite taken hold in Europe's mainland. At a time when the monasteries of Byzantium were turning out illuminated manuscripts, the British were still sacrificing to Thor and Woden.

Civilization as we know it began in Turkey more than 9,000 years before the birth of Christ. The traveler finds not only the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers (mythology tells us it provided the water for the Garden of Eden) but also Moses' Mount Ararat, King Midas' palace, the birthplace of Santa Claus as well as of St. Paul in Tarsus.

A German archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann, in the 19th century thought he had found the city of Troy in the Dardanelles where the Trojan War was fought for 10 years over the results of the first beauty contest in history. (Helen won over Hera, Aphrodite and Athena with disastrous results.) There is doubt about his conclusions that it was the site of ancient Troy but there is no doubt regarding the precious artifacts he smuggled out. The Turkish government is still trying to get them back.

It would take a lifetime and more to know this place. Feeling overwhelmed, I sit in an outdoor café outside the Museum of Antiquities amid Greek and Roman statues, sarcophagi and carvings from temples nestled under the shade of maple trees. There are so many artifacts these no longer fit inside. No wonder Western museum curators are tempted to smuggle a piece out here and there. With what loving care the Getty in Los Angeles displays its few pieces of antiquity, and here they just lie outdoors, open to the elements. It's an astonishing sight.

I have just spent four hours trudging through the Topkapi and its gardens, where once retinues of eunuchs and admirals, generals and courtiers as well as assassins walked through its paths. Along the sinister corridors of the palace, with its covert latticed indoor windows and hidden staircases, you can almost see the fleeting shadows of sultans who lived in unbelievable luxury but were constantly in danger of being assassinated.

At least an hour and a half was spent buying an entrance ticket and later standing in line again to see the harem and the Treasury, the Sultan's portraits and wardrobes. In the Chamber of the Sacred Relics, I am astonished to see a few bones, encased in gold, marked "Left arm and occipital bone of St. John the Baptist."

Neither the heat nor the long wait deters the crowds. I don't think I'm the only one who is amazed at the almost hypnotic beauty of the jewelry. I can hear people gasping literally at rubies the size of pigeon's eggs, emeralds carved into boxes, a diamond weighing 86 carats, thrones of gold encrusted with precious stones. So this is what a king's ransom means!

The Topkapi built in the 16th century is not particularly old if you consider that the original Haghia Sophia (meaning the Divine Wisdom of Christ) that I had seen the day before was inaugurated in the 4th century. Some consider it the most beautiful church ever built. True enough, the interior has a golden haze and a scholar of the 6th century wrote that "the glow of the interior...is not illuminated by the sun from the outside but that radiance is generated within." The structure has survived earthquakes, the destruction of much of its mosaics, the stripping of its altars and even a fire that caused the lead from its dome to melt down the gutters. It even survived the Venetians, among the many armies that pillaged the city. Today the bronze horses looted from Constantinople still lord it over Piazza di San Marco in Venice.

These are all within the old city surrounded by walls that were old 1,600 ago, older even than the installation of the obelisk of Emperor Theodosius in 400 A.D. in Sultanahmet Square where it still stands. Nearby is Taksim, where you want to do your shopping rather than at the Grand Bazaar, though you must see the latter. The bazaar or "mall" is 650 years old and boasts of 64 alleys, 3,500 shops and 25,000 workers. But Taksim is where the locals haggle and where I find glazed chestnuts and spices like saffron and the *bulgur* to make some *tabbouleah* when I get home and dream of the Turkish delights I have seen.

Happily ever after, indeed

Beia Formoso

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ONE of my fondest memories of my childhood is that of my mother reading me stories at bedtime. While I adored the Greek and Roman mythology, what I enjoyed most were the fairy tales, especially those in the big hardbound Disney books that had colorful illustrations covering the whole page. Before mother would reach the ending, I would pretend to fall asleep just like young characters on television shows (I was *maarte* as a child). Then when she had left the room, I would climb out of bed to switch on the light and finish the book myself because I was dying to know what happened in the end.

Recently I heard that fairy tales are no longer being told to students in the United States. You will not find any books of fairy tales in US elementary school libraries, and it is recommended that households not carry them either. Scholars and professors claim that adults who were familiar with fairy tales as children believe that they are real, that they can come true and when it hits them later on that fairy tales are make-believe, they suffer from disillusionment. Apparently even preschoolers need to be taught early in life about reality and that poisonous apples and witches locking up girls in towers aren't real, so that they will turn out to be grounded and reasonable human beings.

Sure, grounded—and boring. What kind of people are we trying to produce here? Realists who will never see the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, I say. Little girls who will never pretend to be dancing princesses and wear crowns of daisies on their heads. Boys who will never have sword fights like Peter Pan and Captain Hook. No Virginia, there is no Santa Claus. Hans Christian Andersen must be turning over in his grave.

Upon hearing this information, I thought of Ally McBeal. In every other episode, Ally has to defend her belief in fairy tales—in finding her Prince Charming and living happily ever after—from her officemates and friends who put her down. While Ally may be odd and suffering from hallucinations half the season, she gets by, strong and sincere in searching for true love and unicorns. And I say she is quite happy the way she is.

So now I ask, is it wrong to believe in fairy tales? What is the matter with believing in these things? Yes, to believe they truly exist is wrong, but to believe **in** them, in their meaning is not. I know that fairy tales aren't real. I admit that when I realized there's more to life than "happily ever after" and that real-life Prince Charmings are usually either gay or taken, I became depressed. But in some way, isn't realizing that fairy godmothers and "happily ever after" aren't real all a part of growing up? Isn't it part of the whole process of picking yourself up and trying again after a blow? Some take it better than others, I am sure. Others, like Ally and myself, never stop believing to a certain degree. Heck, Cinderella never gave up, despite her stepmother and cruel sisters. Prince Phillip never gave up trying to slay the witch-dragon and save Sleeping Beauty with a kiss. Neither will Ally McBeal and I, in our quest for love and happiness in this world.

What it boils down to is that fairy tales are simply all about fun. The excitement, the wonder, the magic. It's what transforms a mermaid into a girl. It's what changes rags into a beautiful ball gown. It's what turns straw into gold. It's the sparkle in your eyes when you wish upon the first star of the night. It's the look in children's faces when they watch a Disney movie. It's the hope that someday, the dream that you wish for will come true.

I am thankful that my mother read me fairy tales. When it's my turn, I will read my children fairy tales. I will light the sparkle in their eyes. I will let them grow and learn for themselves that castles in the air don't exist and genies don't appear out of lamps. And I will comfort them when they realize that mortgages, overtime and dirty diapers go along for the ride during "happily ever after."

I know this much is true: in the course of their lives the sparkle will remain to light their way through the toughest of times, just as it has for me, so that we will indeed live happily ever after.

That's the power of wonderful storytelling, which is what a fairy tale is in the first place.

Beia Formoso, 18, is an Interdisciplinary Studies junior at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Snatched

Lazaro N. Ervite

IT was on a lazy Sunday afternoon that I lost my cell phone.

I had watched a movie and decided to take a bus to Makati on Edsa near the corner of Shaw Boulevard. After sending a message to a friend, I put my cell phone in my pocket and closed my eyes since the slow flow of the traffic made me feel sleepy. I must have fallen asleep for when I opened my eyes I was already in Buendia. I got off the bus and hurriedly crossed the street to get another ride, hoping I would not be too late for the Vespers scheduled at 6 p.m.

The bus that I took was filled with passengers, but I still managed to get a seat. When the bus reached Guadalupe, I got off. It was then that I noticed that my pocket felt so light. I reached for my cel' phone, but it was gone.

The bus was slowly moving away. I thought of running after it but my feet was rooted to the ground. As the bus disappeared from my sight, I realized that I had lost my cell phone.

Gone with it were the data which I had laboriously gathered as we did our immersion among the vendors in Monumento the week before. The data were very important to me since they were to form the basis for the report I had to write on the vendors' plight. The report, in turn, was going to determine my grade.

Gone also were the numbers and addresses which I had collected for a year. But above all, my treasured cell phone which I valued so dearly, was gone. I got it in July 2000 and it left me in July this year, and it's as if a part of me has gone with it.

When I reached home, I sent e-mail messages to tell my friends that my cell phone was lost. I asked them to call the number or send text messages requesting whoever got it to return it to me. I also called up, using a friend's cell phone. My phone kept ringing but nobody answered. I flooded it with text messages and calls—to no avail. When I called again an hour later, the unit had been switched off.

I tried calling several times, but it wouldn't ring anymore. The one who got it must have thrown the SIM card and put a new one into it. I stopped calling only at midnight.

I went to bed, but I could hardly sleep for I was mourning the loss of my cell phone. In my sleeplessness, I recalled what that cell phone meant to me. It had connected me to my family in the province and abroad. I was not obsessed with sending messages to friends. My cell phone was purely for business and emergency use.

The following day, I called up the service provider. I was told that prepaid cell phones and SIM cards could not be traced once they are lost. With this, my cell phone was buried.

I decided not to have a cell phone for some time, not to prolong my mourning, but so that I could pray for the one who snatched it or found it. I am not praying that he will return it to me. Instead I pray that he will not meet any misfortune. I pray that he'll cherish that cell phone for it meant so much to me. And I pray that the one who has it now will get the charger from me.

Lazaro N. Ervite, 25, is a student of the Maryhill School of Theology.

Bad precedent set at SSS

MALACAÑANG set a bad precedent when it capitulated to the Social Security System union and some senior executives by removing SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II and transferring him to the Development Bank of the Philippines.

The illegal strike was detrimental to the 23 million members of the SSS, 800,000 of whom are retirees. The so-called skeleton force made up of 5 percent of the noisy 4,000 employees of the SSS was not enough to render much-needed services to the SSS members. Even if the striking SSS employees tried to make amends by volunteering to work on Saturday and Sunday after the strike, the damage had been done.

At the height of the walkout, one union officer had the temerity to say that if President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was catapulted to the presidency by Edsa II, they could easily depose Nañagas. Now, what will stop other government employees from ousting their superiors for any reason?

It has been bruited about that the SSS senior executives goaded the rank and file to take to the streets against Nañagas because administrative, civil and criminal charges were set to be filed against them after an audit report found them to be involved in "behest investments" of the SSS under then SSS president Carlos Arellano during the Estrada administration. Moreover, in 1998, the SSS approved across-the-board salary increases amounting to close to P1 billion or an average increase of almost P250,000 per head. Compare this to the retiree's average pension of P2,640 a month. To top it all, Horacio Templo, EVP, receives P289,916 a month, while other vice presidents receive salaries ranging from P106,673 to P193,235! Poor Nañagas was only receiving P100,000 a month.

The President should commission the University of the Philippines to conduct an in-depth study of the SSS to find out how many people should really be employed in this milking cow. Systems and procedures should be reviewed to better serve the SSS members. If privatization is the call of the day, so be it!

The 23 million SSS members own the SSS. The managers and personnel employed there (they're not even SSS members) are employees of the members. Congress and the SSS members should be the ones to decide if the agency should be privatized. That's that!—**APOLONIO G. RAMOS 42 Mindanao St., Marikina City**

LETTERS TO THE INQUIRER

Fears about palm oil deal

THE PHILIPPINE Peasant Institute condemns President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's land deal with Malaysian palm oil investors especially in the light of the government's poor record as regards the distribution of agricultural land to agrarian reform beneficiaries and given the ailing state of the Philippine coconut industry.

We are wondering where President Macapagal will source the 160,000 hectares of public agricultural land that she offered to the Malaysian investors because her administration has difficulty allotting land. She can only offer 100,000 hectares of public land to small Filipino farmers. The indigenous peoples have long been struggling against the government's propensity to commit ancestral lands for the use of private local and foreign companies.

We oppose the establishment of palm oil farms as it promotes plantation-type agriculture and entails the reconsolidating of large private agricultural land. These run counter to the government's agrarian reform program and to its agricultural modernization program which are supposed to entail the development of small farms. Instead of parceling and distributing land to agrarian reform beneficiaries, the government may again be encouraging leaseback arrangements which run contrary to the spirit and intent of agrarian reform. The experience of agrarian reform beneficiaries who entered into a leaseback agreement with the Filipinas Palm Oil Plantation Inc. (FPPI) is quite illustrative of the unsavory aspects of a leaseback arrangement.

What is particularly onerous about the land deal is that government has been obviously too hasty in encouraging palm oil production at a time when small farmers have been calling for the rehabilitation of the Philippine coconut industry! The move will have adverse effects on current efforts to revitalize the ailing coconut industry and will cause the economic demise of many small coconut farmers, many of whom are already on the verge of bankruptcy.

We are also disappointed with Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor. The small farmers endorsed him for the post to represent their interest. He has obviously failed to defend the small farmers' interests and has done nothing to improve their lives during his first six months in office. We are very disappointed over his failure to extend the simple courtesy of consulting the small farmers on the issue.

Curiously when he was a legislator, Montemayor strongly opposed the establishment of palm oil plantations. He even called for a legislative inquiry on the possible impact of palm oil plantations on the coconut industry.

President Macapagal and Montemayor should heed the call of their constituents, especially the small farmers, and withdraw from the hastily forged land deal.—**OMI C. ROYANDOYAN, executive director, Philippine Peasant Institute, 1104 Diliman, Quezon City**

Knowledgeable and truthful witness

ON BEHALF of the Christian communities of the Prelature of Ipil, we would like to add our voice to those who are calling for an impartial hearing and speedy investigation by an independent body of the allegations brought up by Fr. Cirilo Nacorda regarding the crisis in Lamitan and the rest of Basilan Island.

As a kidnap victim himself and a long-time parish priest in Basilan, Father Nacorda's testimony cannot be summarily brushed aside. He does not speak for himself only, but for many of the affected households in Lamitan.

He does not question the entire military establishment, but simply the conduct of certain officers during the most critical moments of the Lamitan crisis. His words should be taken as coming from a witness who is both *sciens et verax*.

We in Ipil have also been victimized by an Abu Sayyaf raid on our town's marketplace in April 1995. Until now, however, neither the alleged nor real perpetrators have been brought to justice. We do not wish the same fate to happen to our brothers and sisters in Lamitan.—**BISHOP ANTONIO J. LEDESMA, S.J. AND EIGHT OTHER SIGNATORIES, Prelature of Ipil, P.O. Box 7383, Ipil, 7001 Zamboanga del Sur**

'Who murdered my son?'

THE LAST time I spoke to my son, he knit his eyebrows in consternation because I warned him not to take the Batasan Road shortcut on his way home from school that evening. He did, and when I saw him again 18 hours later, he was dead, with a bulging right eye and with blood still oozing from a gunshot wound just below those eyebrows.

Jether James Castillo was not a rebellious son. He was just strangely different early that morning of Aug. 2. In fact Jet-jet was the kind of son most mothers dream of having. He was responsible, obedient, respectful and bright. He was friendly, well-liked and confident. Gifted musically, he won solo singing contests and played the keyboard well enough to help his band win over eight other groups. A sophomore at the Mapua, he nurtured dreams of becoming a civil engineer. His life revolved around his family, his studies and the church where his father is the pastor. Just 17, he was bursting with potential.

He's dead now, leaving his parents, three brothers, a girlfriend, friends, classmates and churchmates reeling in shock and numb with the close-to-home realization that this country is not getting any better.

I am appealing to witnesses or whoever can give any leads about the shooting incident at Commonwealth Avenue corner Batasan Road, Quezon City on Aug. 2, at 10:30 p.m. Please tell the police what you know. Unless you speak up, I may never find out who murdered my son.—**ESTHER CASTILLO, 10 Korea Ave., Greenheights Subd., Nangka, Marikina City**

Excuses for Filipinos' excesses

DON'T delude yourself or be fooled. This brouhaha over Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged criminal activities is not motivated by high moral indignation. The whole thing is simply an exercise of our age-old Filipino tradition of crab mentality, with the lesser crabs clawing down an ascending crab. This flurry of investigations and exposés does not presage any moral renaissance for the Filipinos. It is simply a manifestation of our propensity for muckraking and gossip. No righteous motivation here.

Lacson's response is as traditionally Filipino as *"Bawal ang umihi dito."* He disdainfully pisses back at his accusers with Jesus' admonition, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone," the Filipino's favorite defense. It is a case of sanctimonious injustice.

Being a true Filipino, Lacson merely followed our custom of *makaisa* and *magpalusot*. To paraphrase a local author, he is just being smarter than others, and surely there is nothing wrong with that. Legally one may have committed a crime, but still there's nothing wrong with being *may abilidad*, as we are wont to say. Everyone does it anyway.

And in our society, he is right. *"Eh anong masama doon," "Eh bakit siya, makisama ka," "Eh kung ang Diyos nagpapatawad,"* are just some of our excuses to justify our excesses. And the way justice is dispensed in our country, these excuses seem to be justified.

I believe this *moro-moro* will fade as soon as another crab climbs higher up. Our cancer has grown worse since "Noli."—**JUN PASIMO, BF Homes, Parañaque City**

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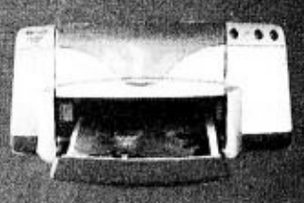
bundle of joy



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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Seoul refuses to be placated by Tokyo

TOKYO—Visiting South Korean lawmakers yesterday said they were opposed to proposals by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to hold a bilateral summit to mend relations frayed by Koizumi's recent visit to the Yasukuni war shrine.

"We are indignant at Prime Minister Koizumi's diplomatic stance," South Korean National Assembly member Kim Yong-jim told a news conference here at a Japanese House of Representatives office building.

Kim, heading a five-member delegation to Tokyo to protest Koizumi's visit to the controversial Shinto shrine Monday, blamed Koizumi for seeking talks with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung after visiting the war shrine.

"It is impolite to take this attitude after forcibly going ahead with the visit despite our opposition," Kim said through a translator.

"We want to tell diplomatic authorities our views after we return home," he said.

Koizumi's pilgrimage to Yasukuni in Tokyo caused a storm of protests in Asia, as it is dedicated to about 2.5 million Japanese who died in a century of conflicts, including 14 convicted and executed major war criminals.

China, both Koreas and other Asian countries which bore the brunt of Japan's imperialist past are incensed at what they see as Japanese attempts to gloss over an aggressive past.

Upon his visit Monday, Koizumi issued a statement saying he wanted to "have opportunities as soon as possible to have face-to-face meetings" with leaders of China and South Korea to exchange views on peace.

The South Korean lawmakers went to see the Yasukuni Shrine for themselves after the news conference. Koizumi meanwhile left Tokyo yesterday for the hot spa resort of Hakone about 70 km west of the capital for a week's summer vacation until Aug. 26.

Japan's best-selling daily said the government would set up an advisory panel reporting to Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda to study the establishment of a new memorial site for war dead.

Tokyo is considering making a non-religious memorial, not a cemetery, and would not seek the transfer the names of war dead enshrined at Yasukuni nor the remains of unknown soldiers from another war memorial at Chidorigafuchi, the Yomiuri Shimbun said in its evening edition.

The Chidorigafuchi cemetery lies across the road from Yasukuni, housing the remains of around 320,000 unknown soldiers who died since the Sino-Japanese war of 1937.

Koizumi said in Monday's statement that Japan needed to "discuss what could be done in order for people at home and abroad to pay memorial tribute without discomfort, while respecting the feelings of the Japanese people toward Yasukuni Shrine and Chidorigafuchi national cemetery." *AFP*

Only 15 schools use disputed book

TOKYO—Only 15 Japanese schools educating 1,300 pupils plan to use a history textbook that has sparked fury across Asia for downplaying Japan's wartime atrocities, reports said yesterday.

The figures represent a tiny approval rate for the book's use of 0.03 percent out of the four million children attending junior high schools in Japan.

The book's nationalist authors from the Society for History Textbook Reform, which criticizes Japan's "masochistic" view of its past, had aimed for a 10 percent take-up.

Fifteen schools, including six institutions for special needs children, have chosen the "New History Textbook," Kyodo News agency and newspapers reported from their own surveys.

The Japanese education ministry's decision to approve use of the book in schools has caused uproar in Asian countries that suffered from Japanese colonialism and invasion before 1945.

South Korea and China have led the protests, but the book has also drawn fire from liberal Japanese.

The book avoids use of the word "invasion" for the Imperial Army's march through East Asia, and plays down events such as the 1937 Nanjing massacre in China and the use of hundreds of thousands of Asian women as sex slaves by Japanese troops. *AFP*

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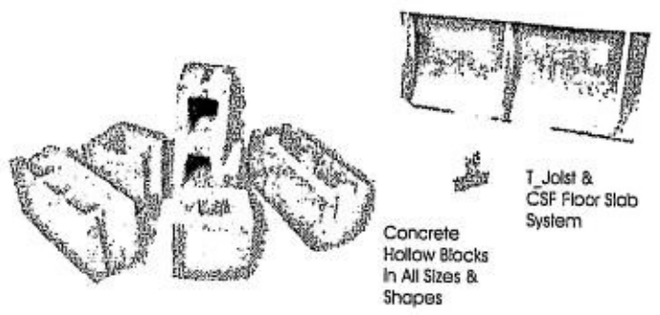

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FITNESS TEST FOR TOP JOB REUTERS

Buzandi the gorilla has a medical examination by Dr. Helen McCracken Aug. 16, before his departure from Royal Melbourne Zoo to Hannover Zoo in Germany next month. The nine-year-old sub-adult male has to be moved before he challenges the Melbourne zoo's dominant male gorilla. His checkup included having his eyes, ears, and teeth checked, listening to his chest and running blood tests for hepatitis and TB. Buzandi will take up the job as the number one ape at Hannover where his duties will include mating with females, maintaining harmony in the group and sorting out squabbles.

Montesinos' $18-M stash recovered

LIMA—Peruvian authorities have recuperated about $18 million from a Cayman Islands bank account allegedly controlled by former intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos, the Justice Ministry announced Thursday.

Justice Minister Fernando Olivera said the money was "undoubtedly spirited out of the country" by Montesinos, now in jail after his extradition back to Peru by Venezuelan authorities.

A Peruvian anti-corruption judge has managed to find and freeze the account at Wiese Sudameris Bank on Gran Cayman and persuade the authorities to surrender the money to Peru, according to Olivera.

The return of the money brings to $23 million the amount retrieved by Peru from funds allegedly siphoned by Montesinos.

But Peruvian authorities believe the former spymaster spirited more than $200 million out of the country during President Alberto Fujimori's rule. *AFP*

Wildfires hit western US

PORTLAND, Oregon—Firefighters continued to battle wildfires raging across the western United States Thursday, with the flames covering 245,455 hectares of forests and grassland, officials said.

Some 21,000 firefighters are on fire lines of 42 large blazes in 10 states, from California to Washington State and Oregon to Oklahoma and Texas, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

A scorching heat wave of temperatures between 35 and 40 degrees Celsius has been affecting the area that for months has had almost no precipitation.

Here in Oregon, more than 3,500 firefighters and support staff have been fighting day and night to contain 11 major wildfires blazing across the state.

"We are expecting an increase in the number of fires due to some high winds," said George Lennon of the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center in Portland. "Those winds will continue throughout the night, which will only add to the crisis."

The wildfires were ignited by lightning storms that began in the south and swept north 10 days ago, leaving blazing brush in their wake. *AFP*

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Israel poised to occupy Palestinian town

JERUSALEM—Israeli tanks were on standby yesterday to roll in to an autonomous Palestinian town accused of harboring "terrorists," as US President George W. Bush urged Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to "do his level best" to help end Middle East violence.

As the Israeli Army's top planners warned the bloody uprising could drag on for another five years, tanks and armored troop carriers were on standby to enter Beit Jala, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, if Palestinian gunmen opened fire again on the neighboring Jewish settlement of Gilo.

Israel had planned to charge into the town Tuesday after a gun battle but stopped after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's security officials reined in gunmen for fear of provoking another lightning strike in Palestinian-controlled territory.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said his troops may yet move into the restive town.

"If we have to enter Beit Jala, we will stay there, but not indefinitely," he said.

"Our aim is not to attack the population of Beit Jala or Bethlehem, but there are terrorist elements there using the towns, and we will not allow Gilo to be fired upon," he said.

"Apparently Yasser Arafat has understood that there are red lines that cannot be crossed, and I have always said that when he wants to, he can stop the violence," said Ben Eliezer.

A White House spokesperson said Bush and Sharon had agreed to move forward with a US-crafted blueprint for peace, but the Israeli Cabinet said later it would pursue its controversial strikes at suspected Palestinian "terrorists."

The UN Security Council will hold a public meeting on Monday to discuss the crisis in the Middle East, according to council president Alfonso Valdivieso of Colombia.

Bush telephoned Sharon to offer condolences to families of the victims of a recent spate of Palestinian suicide bombings that have brought regional tensions to breaking point, said White House spokesperson Sean McCormack.

"Both leaders agreed on the need to avoid escalating the situation in the region," as well as moving forward with the blueprint for peace crafted by an international panel headed by former US senator George Mitchell, and the ceasefire plan by CIA director George Tenet, said McCormack. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Bombing spree in Aceh

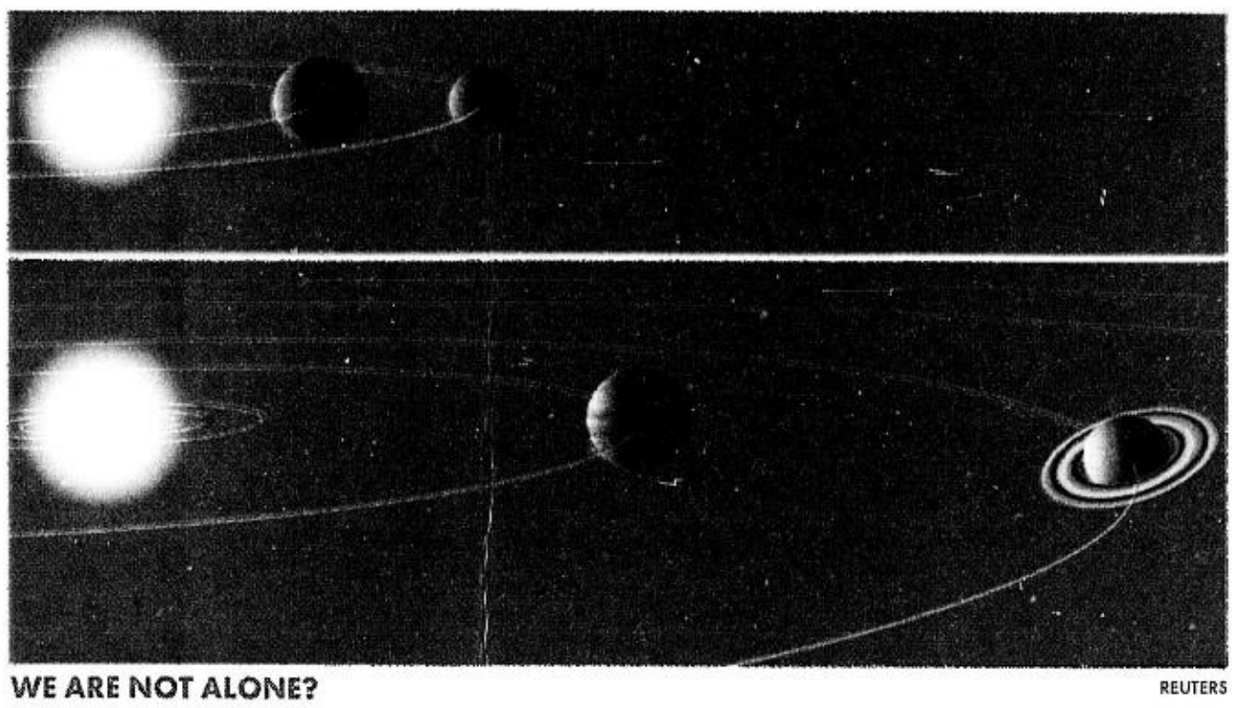
BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—At least 30 bombs or grenade blasts were heard around the main city in the restive province of Aceh in the run-up to Indonesia's Independence Day yesterday, residents said. The blasts cut power to the provincial capital Banda Aceh for some hours Thursday night and badly damaged four banks, an AFP reporter saw. One was burnt to the ground. Flag-raising ceremonies went ahead in the province on Sumatra island where a separatist revolt has been waged since the mid-1970s. But witnesses said Banda Aceh remained tense, with streets very quiet, most shops closed and a transport strike still in force. *AFP*

French patient sues Bayer

AVIGNON—A 54-year-old Frenchman has filed suit against German pharmaceutical firm Bayer over health problems he said he developed after taking one of the company's anti-cholesterol drugs, court officials said yesterday. A court in Avignon in southern France said it had received a complaint late Thursday against Bayer from 54-year-old Jean-Luc Freel, who said he had experienced pain and muscle weakness after he began taking the Cholstat anti-cholesterol drug in January of this year. Cholstat and Staltor are the French names for the anti-cholesterol medicines Baycol-Lipobay, which Bayer withdrew from the market 10 days ago after they were linked to at least 52 deaths. *AFP*

Jelly candy pulled out

SAN FRANCISCO—A popular jelly candy imported from Asia was pulled from the shelves of hundreds of supermarkets after it was blamed for the choking deaths of two children. Grocery giant Safeway pulled Jelly Yum brand candies from 200 of its Northern California stores last week. On Wednesday, the Albertson's chain announced that Fruit Poppers and Gel-ly Drop candies will be removed from its 2,500 stores nationwide, and bulk good store Costco ordered the candies off the shelves of more than 250 stores around the world, including 10 in Asia. The candy is linked to the deaths of a 3-year-old in November and a 12-year-old last month. In both cases, rescue workers said they couldn't dislodge the sticky gel from the children's throats. *AP*



WE ARE NOT ALONE? REUTERS

A team of astronomers has found a Jupiter-size planet in a circular orbit around a faint nearby star, raising intriguing prospects of finding a solar system with characteristics similar to our own. The planet is the second found to orbit the star 47 Ursae Majoris in the Big Dipper, also known as Ursa Major or the Big Bear. The new planet is at least three-fourths the mass of Jupiter and orbits the star at a distance that, in our solar system, would place it beyond Mars but within the orbit of Jupiter. In a striking parallel to our solar system (bottom), both Jupiter-size planets are in nearly circular orbits around their star (top).

Cops: Diana's butler stole her belongings

LONDON—Paul Burrell, trusted butler of Princess Diana for many years, was charged Thursday with the theft of property that had belonged to her. He denied all the charges.

Burrell, Diana's "rock" and confidant, was charged with stealing 342 items from Diana, Prince Charles and Prince William on or before June 30, 1998 at Kensington Palace. The allegedly stolen items included a bullwhip, a pepper grinder and photographs.

Burrell, 43, was charged with three counts of theft—one each for items belonging to Charles, Diana and William—and was bailed to appear at Bow Street magistrates court yesterday.

Stony-faced and silent, Burrell left West End Central police station and was bundled into a taxi by police officers.

His lawyer, Andrew Shaw, read a short statement from the steps of the station.

"Paul Burrell denies absolutely the charges that have been preferred against him," Shaw said. "He's rightly perceived to be a man of integrity and trusted by the royal family. He says that their trust is justified."

Among the six items he is accused of stealing from Prince Charles are an inscribed silver salver, a white metal pepper grinder and black book titled "Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour." Another was described by police only as "an Indiana Jones bullwhip." No further information about it was immediately available. *AP*

Team finds Turkic emperor's treasure trove

ULAN BATOR—Turkish archaeologists have found a treasure trove in central Mongolia, including a golden crown they believe belonged to a Turkic emperor who ruled from the Black Sea to Korea in the early eighth Century A.D.

The discovery in early August was the first major find of a Khan's personal riches dating back to the pre-Islamic period, Ankara University researcher Sadettin Gomec said in Mongolia's capital, Ulan Bator.

The treasure was likely to have belonged to emperor Bilge Khagan, who ruled the vast Turkic empire and controlled the Silk Road from 716 to 734 A.D., or to his son Icen Khagan, Gomec said.

The crown was engraved with a mythological bird carrying a ring with a precious stone symbolizing royalty, and a belt with golden ornaments matching those depicted in an ancient statue of Bilge Khagan near the shrine, he said.

"Because of the crown symbols and the belt, we are sure that the grave belonged to either Bilge Khagan or his son," Gomec said.

"This is a very important finding because it is the first time we have found a grave of a Khan or royal person from the pre-Islamic period."

The Turkish-Mongolian research team also found two golden deer statues, known to be symbols of the Khan and his wife, in the grave.

"We are ninety percent sure they are Bilge Khagan's personal belongings," Gomec said. *Reuters*

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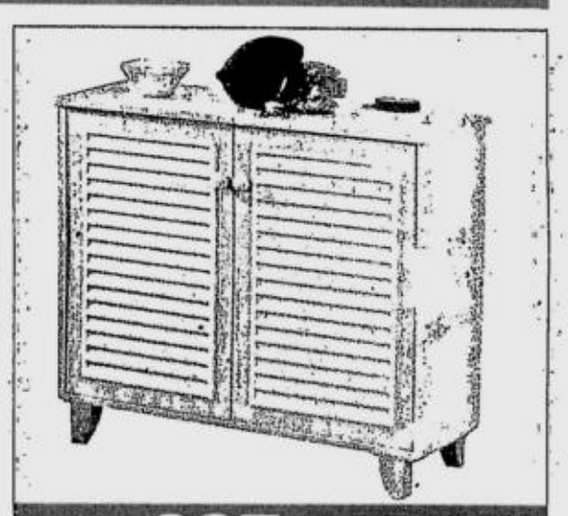

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Northern Luzon will experience rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The rest of Western Luzon, Central Luzon and Western Visayas will have monsoon rains while the rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains	Hi 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Laoag	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Rains	Hi 21° Lo 24°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Hi 28° Lo 25°
Calapan	Rains	Hi 27° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Rains	Hi 27° Lo 23°
Roxas	Rains	Hi 27° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/18/01

Court junks toxic waste case vs RP, US gov'ts

BY JUN MALIG
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—A state cannot be sued without its consent.

This was the explanation given by a regional trial court here in dismissing the P52-billion civil case filed by 100 families of victims of toxic waste contamination at the former Clark Air Base against the Philippine government.

The defendants in the case, docketed as Civil Case No. 9847, include the Office of the President, the departments of national defense, environment and natural resources, health, social welfare and development, the National Disaster Coordinating Council, Mount Pinatubo Commission, and the Clark Development Corp. (CDC).

Judge Lourdes Gatbalite of the regional trial court here based her decision on the motion to dismiss filed last Feb. 1 by the defendants through the Office of the Solicitor General.

The decision, dated last Aug. 13, said the court has no jurisdiction over the defendants on the basis of the constitutional doctrine that "a state cannot be sued without its consent."

The court said that the suit "is essentially against the Philippine government," which did not give its consent to be sued either expressly or impliedly.

The immunity of the state is based on the essence of sovereignty itself and that immunity is inherent in sovereign states, the court said.

Citing Philippine and United States Supreme Court rulings, the court said that the P52 billion in actual, moral and exemplary damages being sought by the complainants cannot prosper or be validly entertained by the court except with the consent of the government.

The complainants, mostly lahar victims who resided for some years at the Cabcom evacuation center inside the former Clark Air Base, are represented by the law offices of Peña, Sanchez, Lacson and Mison based in Pasig City.

They alleged that Philippine officials and agencies named as respondents in the case "facilitated and allowed" the lahar victims to live in Cabcom despite complaints that water from artesian wells in the area is contaminated by toxic wastes left by the American military.

They said the Philippine government did not show any concern for the victims despite knowing about the death of more than 100 people due to exposure to toxic wastes.

The case filed by the families of toxic waste contamination victims also named as respondents the US Department of Defense, US Air Force and the US Navy, which allegedly generated, stored, used, dumped and abandoned toxic wastes or hazardous chemicals in the former US military base.

The complainants sought a separate $52 billion from the three agencies.

The US agencies, however, have never answered the complaints against them.

The People's Task Force for the Bases Cleanup, the non-government organization that has been providing assistance to the toxic waste contamination victims, has expressed disappointment over the court's decision.

In Olongapo City, a separate civil case against Philippine and US agencies was filed last year by some 100 victims in the former Subic Naval Base.

The complainants sought P52 billion and $52 billion from the Philippine government and the three US agencies, respectively.

The case is still pending before a regional trial court in Olongapo.

ROUNDUP

6 men kill Gapan cop

CABANATUAN CITY—Six armed men shot and killed a policeman and a former policeman and wounded two others Thursday along a highway in Gapan town some 500 meters from a police headquarters. Killed instantly were PO1 Robert Neri, 25, and his companion Rolando Roldan, 37, a former policeman. Wounded were Rosemarie Sagnit, 38, a vendor, and Marvin Sevillaga, 19, a student. Reports showed that Neri and Roldan had just escorted home Gapan police chief Supt. Anselmo Baluyot a few meters from the Maharlika Highway. The two stopped to buy cigarettes from Sagnit and were supposed to take a ride back home to Gapan when the gunmen attacked them. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Overstaying board

MANGALDAN, Pangasinan—The Philippine Public School Teachers Association in Pangasinan has called on teachers nationwide not to elect overstaying board members to pave the way for a "stronger, well-meaning, morally upright new board of directors." In a statement, PPSTA president Primo Mina lamented that several board directors get elected for several terms which violates the PPSTA bylaws that allow only two consecutive terms. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Firm sues Bulacan mayor

BUSTOS, Bulacan—A Metro-Manila-based communications firm sued Mayor Carlito Reyes before the Ombudsman after he refused to pay P2.9 million that the firm was collecting from the municipal government. First Voice Services Corp., a private communications company, installed radio communication facilities in the town's police station and in its 14 villages during the term of former Mayor Arnel Mendoza, Reyes' predecessor. The firm sued Reyes for graft and abuse of authority after Reyes stopped the release of payment for the company. Reyes said he stopped the payment after they found alleged anomalies in the deal between Mendoza and the company.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Clean, green awardees

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran, the regional clean and green contest of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, named the historic Balingasay River in Bolinao town as the cleanest inland body of water this year. The river has been the traditional source of *bangus* fry in the province. The mouth of the Balingasay River was a ship building site during the Galleon Trade. Paoay Lake in Ilocos Norte was also judged as the cleanest lake in the Ilocos region. Other winners were Ilocos Norte, provincial category; Laoag City, city category; and Agoo, La Union, and Solsona, Ilocos Sur, town category.
Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Forest tissue culture

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local city government will set up a tissue culture laboratory for the production of seedlings of quality forest trees. The laboratory will be established inside a 68-hectare area here, which has been set aside as an agri-aqua-forestville model project. Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the laboratory would help in the government's reforestation program. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cops seize firearms

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Criminal Investigation and Detection Group agents seized four homemade .38 cal. revolvers and bullets from a woman and her live-in partner during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Tikoy here last week. The agents arrested Myrna Santos and Eugenio Albao, who were suspected to be members of a group supplying firearms to criminals in Bulacan, and charged them with illegal possession of firearms and gunrunning before the provincial prosecutor's office here.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

NPA hit men suspects

DAVAO CITY—Members of the liquidation squad of the New People's Army are being eyed as prime suspects in the failed assassination attempt on a village official here on Wednesday. Police, however, are still trying to find out what barangay captain Eddie Fuentes of Barangay 29-C could have done that has possibly irked the rebels. Fuentes suffered a gunshot wound in his left leg when armed men, riding on a black DT-Yamaha motorcycle, shot him once at close range. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Extortion in abduction

DAVAO CITY—The Japanese national and his alleged Filipina lover who were abducted inside a restaurant in Panabo City, Davao del Norte on Tuesday were released after paying a P30,000 ransom to the suspects. Takashi Tsoluda returned Wednesday to Manila after the incident while his lover Rose Deocampo is still in the custody of authorities for further investigation. Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police director, said police are eyeing extortion as the most probable reason why the Japanese was taken hostage.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

UNCEASING rains create a temporary pool in Molave town in Zamboanga del Sur. HERNAN DE LA CRUZ

Floods in Visayas, Mindanao subside but death toll rises

BY CARLA GOMEZ AND NESTOR BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Negros Occidental provincial board has placed two cities and four southern towns under a state of calamity as the death toll from flash floods and landslides in the province increased to 13.

One of three latest fatalities was an unidentified man from Barangay Culipapa, Hinobaan town who drowned during the flash flood on Monday.

Rescuers also found on Wednesday the bodies of Ronick Claveria, 9, and his sister Iris, 3, in Sitio Tilangkoy, Barangay Santol, Binalbagan town, four days after they were reported missing on Saturday. Their mother, Nida, also drowned when their house was submerged in floodwaters.

The other fatalities were Alejandro Vasquez, of Himamaylan; Lucy Domiep, 21, of Sipalay City; and Teofilo Negre, 24, a certain Rudy and a four-year-old boy, Ludovico Manos Jr., all of Hinobaan town.

Killer boulder

Nelia Trinidad, 49 and her two children, Riza Mae, 2 and Lynn, 4, died when a boulder fell on their house during a landslide in Barangay Carabalan, Himamaylan Saturday.

A 9-year-old child was also reported to have drowned in Barangay Cabadiangan, Sipalay City.

The bodies of two children who drowned in Barangay Asia, Hinobaan could not be found and a certain Edoc Seron, 25, of Kabankalan City was missing.

Placed under a state of calamity were Sipalay and Himamaylan cities, and Hinobaan, Ilog, Isabela and Binalbagan towns.

The provincial board has allocated P5 million in financial assistance to the affected towns and cities.

Initial reports received by the governor's office showed that the floods damaged at least P19.6-million worth of crops in Sipalay (P13.5 million), Hinobaan (P3 million), Hinigaran (P500,000), Binalbagan (P1.9 million), Ilog, (P220,000), Kabankalan (P360,000) and Isabela (P120,000).

Displaced

The floods also displaced 7,082 families, or 39,436 individuals. Seventy houses were destroyed while 254 others were damaged.

The Department of Public Works and Highways reported that the flash flood damaged six bridges and seven portions of a road leading to the southern part of the province.

The floods also damaged seven bridges in Antique and three sections of the Iloilo-Antique national road.

The national road from Iloilo to Antique was reopened on Wednesday although the repairs continued on a damaged portion of a road span at Sitio Maalan, Barangay Caromangay, Hamtic town.

The road had been rendered impassable to vehicles since Saturday after floodwaters created a 15-feet-deep hole along a 30-meter span.

The DPWH estimated that the road would be fully passable by Aug. 20 at the earliest.

At least nine of 18 towns of Antique were also affected by flooding. These are: Hamtic, San Jose, Tobias Fornier, Aniniy, Lawa-an, Sibalom, Belison, Culasi, and Tibiao.

State of calamity

The local governments of San Jose and Hamtic have declared their towns under a state of calamity, said Broderick Train, provincial disaster coordinator.

In Mindanao, the floods and torrential rains destroyed more than P319 million worth of infrastructure and crops in Sarangani province and in the Zamboanga peninsula.

In Sarangani, the provincial disaster coordinating council said some P50 million worth of agricultural crops, infrastructure and property were damaged in Maitum, a coastal town of Sarangani province.

One resident was also reported missing.

Hermelo Latoja, provincial social welfare chief, in a report, said the calamity displaced 508 families with a total of 1,728 dependents in at least seven Maitum barangays.

These were Barangays Mabay, Sison, Poblacion, Kiambing, New La Union, Kiayap and Old Poblacion.

Latoja, who also chairs the provincial disaster coordinating council of Sarangani, said that about 180 hectares of rice and cornfields and 14 hectares of fishponds were submerged in floodwaters. The damage on agriculture alone was put at P35 million.

Infra damage

The damage to infrastructure like bridges, irrigation canals and roads were placed at P15 million.

Some P300,000 worth of property and personal belongings were either lost or damaged during the flash floods.

The provincial government of Sarangani, the religious sector, the municipal government of Maitum and non-government organizations have been providing relief assistance to the victims.

In Zamboanga City, the regional disaster coordinating council said P239 million worth of property were damaged but the figure is still being revalidated.

Also, the council on Thursday approved an urgent resolution for the release of a P10-million fund as emergency response funds to flood victims in the Zamboanga peninsula.

Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon of the Western Mindanao police command and chair of the regional disaster coordinating council said the amount was only an initial move to help the affected residents.

Zamboanga del Norte would get P3 million while Zamboanga del Sur would get P3.5 million.

The newly created province of Zamboanga Sibugay was given an allocation of P2 million, Misamis Occidental, P500,000; Basilan, P250,000 and P250,000 each for the cities of Pagadian, Dipolog and Zamboanga City.

Dizon described the recent flooding as the worst natural disaster to hit the Zamboanga peninsula in recent years. *With reports from Aquiles Zonio and Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army says NPA gets funds from village budgets

BAGUIO CITY—Military officials here said the New People's Army operating in Abra has been getting a share from the Internal Revenue Allotment of the province's villages as part of the rebel group's revolutionary tax.

The Army's Civil Relations Group for Ilocos region said in a report that barangay officials in Tayum, Abra, were forced to allot P12,000 from their IRAs for the NPA.

Col. Ricardo Nobleza, commanding officer of the 503rd Infantry Battalion based in Tayum, said the amount was collected from 12 villages of Malibcong town and was later turned over to two emissaries of Jovencio Balweg, head of the NPA's Agustin Begnalen Command, in June this year.

The report said communist rebels collect P1,000 from each barangay purportedly to finance their activities.

In nearby Licuan-Baay town in Abra, NPA rebels have been seeking support from the villagers, not by collecting revolutionary taxes but by getting goods and agricultural crops.

1st Lt. Mario Recentes, former commanding officer of the 17th Infantry Battalion, said NPA rebels usually visit the communities in Licuan-Baay and Malibcong to ask for food or a part of the farmers' harvest.

"That is illegal plain and simple. (But getting a portion of the IRA) is a practical reason that they want to be part of the government," Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Northern Luzon Command, told reporters here Wednesday.

He said the military units operating in Ilocos region failed to monitor the activities of NPA rebels operating in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Cordillera because they lack knowledge and capability in conducting intelligence work.

Garcia said military officials assigned to the provinces only receive reports from the communities where the rebels collect revolutionary taxes.

He said there was an increase in the number of rebels operating in Luzon, especially in the Cordillera and Central Luzon.

The Nolcom said about 400 NPA rebels are scattered in Ilocos and Cordillera while 800 rebels are operating in Central Luzon.

"We want to clarify that the military is not the root cause of insurgency. The root causes of insurgency are poverty, ignorance and injustice," he said.
Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mayor's kin angry over NBI disclosure

BY ROLY EMBILE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The family of slain Masbate City Mayor Moises Espinosa Jr. was further angered by the National Bureau of Investigation's disclosure of the identities of three suspects in the killing.

Former Masbate Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa, older brother of the victim, said such disclosure was premature and jeopardized authorities' efforts to bag the suspects by giving them the opportunity to elude arrest.

Espinosa told the INQUIRER in a long distance telephone interview that they have an agreement with the Task Force Espinosa not to divulge the identities of the suspects until they have been arrested.

The task force investigating the murder of Mayor Espinosa includes special teams from the NBI, Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (CIID) and the Regional Criminal Investigation Group.

Espinosa said that in the name of peace, he has communicated with Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho in a letter to help in surrendering the suspects to authorities.

He said that investigation showed that Isagani Quidato, Alexander Bermoy and Ronaldo Boncaras were associated with Kho.

Quidato, who has a pending case for rape, and Bermoy, for robbery, were former employees of Kho as well as Boncaras who was a watchman in Kho's Masbate City residence, he said.

Quidato is reportedly a brother of Kho's appointed provincial jail warden Gaga Quidato whom the Espinosas earlier petitioned to be sacked along with relieved Masbate Provincial police director Supt. Victor Deaona and Masbate City chief of police Domingo Mendoza to assure a speedy and impartial investigation of the case.

"It would be best for him (Kho) to surrender them as early as possible to save himself from further trouble because it would ruin him, as governor of Masbate, if he cuddles dangerous criminals," he said.

Cops shoot dead jailbreak leader

ILAGAN, Isabela—The suspected leader of 20 prisoners who escaped from the provincial jail here was killed Thursday when he allegedly resisted arrest in Barangay Villa Paz in Naguilian town, reports reaching the provincial police said.

Reports said Leo Cara, 34, and who was facing robbery with homicide charges, allegedly resisted arrest, drew his gun and tried to fire at pursuing law enforcers.

Cara's actions reportedly prompted policemen to fire at him. He died instantly from bullet wounds in the back.

When he was shot, Cara was still wearing his prisoner's uniform.

Cara, a native of Santiago City, was among the 20 prisoners who escaped from the Isabela provincial jail on Monday night. Eleven jail guards were suspended and are undergoing investigation.

Jail guard Rolando Peredo Jr. said Villa Paz residents reported to police that some suspicious looking men were seen harvesting coconut at a plantation there.

When responding policemen fired warning shots, the men scampered while Cara tried to shoot the lawmen. Four of the prisoners were reportedly seen in Barangay Punit in Benito Soliven town and five others were seen in Barangay Surcoc in Naguilian.

Two escapees, Bonifacio Mateo and Rufino Dorigo, were earlier rearrested. Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. appealed to relatives of the escaped convicts not to coddle them and report their presence to the police. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Woman files 172 counts of rape against husband

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A government worker here sought the assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation in filing at least 172 counts of marital rape against her husband for allegedly making her a "virtual sex slave and a punching bag."

In a complaint that she filed before the NBI, the woman claimed that since November 2000 until May this year, her husband forced her into having sex with him, despite her objections.

Lawyer Boye Mama, NBI district head for the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area, refused to disclose the identity of the couple, but said they are both government employees.

The wife filed a formal complaint saying she could no longer bear the physical and sexual abuse inflicted on her by her husband.

She also accused her husband of concubinage.

The husband even brought his mistress to their conjugal home, the complainant said.

Aside from physical and sexual abuse, she complained that her husband has been forcing her to perform perverted sexual acts.

"Even if the woman is your wife, it doesn't mean you can do anything, even inhuman acts, on her," said Mama.

"The incident could be a test case (as far as) marital rape (is concerned) here," Mama said. ***Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

10,000 MORE FAMILIES

List of poor grows longer

BY VICENTE LABRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Some 10,000 families have been added to the total number of poor families in Eastern Visayas from 1997 to 2000, according to the preliminary results of the 2000 Poverty Statistics released by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) here.

The NSCB poverty data estimates showed that the poverty incidence in Eastern Visayas, or the proportion of families in the region with incomes below the poverty line, increased by 2.2 percent, from 40.8 percent in 1997 to 43.0 percent in 2000.

The number of poor families in the region reached 316,780 in 2000, said Neil Moraleta, information officer of the NSCB regional office here.

The region's annual per capita poverty threshold or poverty line went up to P10,868 in 2000, or an increase of 24 percent from P8,727 in 1997.

This means, Moraleta said, that a family of six members in the region should have an income of at least P5,434 a month to meet its food and non-food basic needs.

Below this income threshold, he added, a family of that size is considered poor.

The region's poverty threshold of P10,868, however, is the lowest in the country. The National Capital Region (NCR) continues to have the highest poverty threshold at P18,001.

The national poverty threshold is P13,916.

Results also showed that poverty incidence in the rural areas in the region was higher than the urban areas.

The proportion of poor families in the rural areas in 2000 was placed at 49.4 percent, which is higher than the 44.9 percent level in 1997.

In the urban areas, the proportion of poor families reached 26.7 percent in 2000, or lower than the 29.8 percent level in 1997.

The annual per capita poverty threshold for urban areas in the region is P12,144 in 2000 and P10,352 in the rural areas.

Moraleta said this means that a family of six in urban areas in the region should have a monthly income of P6,072 while those in rural areas should have P5,176 to meet their food and non-food basic needs.

Militant labor unions are demanding that daily wages be increased by at least P125 to enable workers to cope with the rising costs of basic commodities.

But employers warned that raising wages by that much would lead to more workers losing their jobs.

The labor department said a P16 increase in wages would be sufficient and could come in October.

Donald Dee, head of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines, was quoted on Channel 5 as saying the government's priority should be to create more jobs, not raise wages.

Chinese water supply workers offered escorts

COTABATO CITY—The military has discouraged employees of the China Import-Export Technologies Inc. (Citec), who are working in the P3-billion Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project in North Cotabato, from going out of their working area without security escorts.

Major Julieto Ando, spokesperson for the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the move came after three of their companions and a Filipino-Chinese trader were seized by kidnap gang leader Tahir Alonto and Abu Hamsa Sunday in Datu Paglas, Maguindanao on Sunday.

Short of saying that the Chinese contractors are barred from leaving, Ando said the foreigners were advised to inform military authorities of their whereabouts, their time of departure and expected time of arrival anytime during the day.

"If necessary, the Army will provide close-in military escorts," Ando told the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp. here.

The four—Zang Zung Yee, Hung Li, Zhu Zhing and Filipino-Chinese—were taken while securing the release of Zhang Zhong Quiang, Citec's executive officer.

Yee is the brother of Zhang, who was abducted in June while on his way to the project site from Davao City.

His captors initially demanded US$4 million but agreed to lower the ransom to P5 million after a series of negotiations.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol talked with Citec officials urging them not to pay the ransom. However, the firm eventually agreed and sent three of its employees to pay the kidnappers.

Piñol said the payment of ransom would encourage more kidnappings.

"If we are to curb kidnappings, relatives of victims should not be paying any ransom," he said.

The pay-off was to take place in Datu Paglas, Maguindanao, but instead of releasing their first captive, the kidnappers held the couriers.

Abu Hamsa, spokesperson of the group, has demanded $10 million for all five victims although his group is now holding the P5 million, which was supposed to be the payment for Zhang's liberty.

Ando said the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade in Carmen, North Cotabato, is securing the Chinese engineers and other personnel of Citec.

The project, when completed, would irrigate 12,000 hectares of ricefields in Maguindanao and North Cotabato. ***Edwin Fernandez with a report from Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

La Union reports outbreak of FMD

LUNA, La Union—Officials here and in neighboring Balaoan town have ordered the burning of hundreds of pigs infected with the foot-and-mouth disease to contain the spread of the FMD virus.

Veterinary officials in the province and their counterparts in Luna and Balaoan also started on Wednesday the vaccination of thousands of pigs in FMD-affected villages of San Pablo, Cantoria and Bet-ang here and of Oaqui and Napaset in Balaoan.

These personnel were also disinfecting backyard piggeries in the two towns where about 10,000 pigs were being kept.

Dr. Renato de Leon, provincial veterinarian, said the FMD Task Force has supplied La Union with 3,000 bottles of FMD vaccines and 10 bags of sodium ash to disinfect piggeries.

Mayor George Pinzon and Balaoan Mayor Joaquin Ostrea Jr. have formed task forces in their towns to monitor FMD cases. They have also implemented local ordinances banning the slaughter and sale of pigs in the villages.

De Leon said the disease was first detected in Barangay San Pablo here on Aug. 6 after an animal trader from Pangasinan bought pigs from the village.

He said the trader, who entered the pigpens and washed the pigs he bought in the village's stream, could have carried the FMD virus.

He said while the FMD virus could be airborne, people like animal traders are the primary carriers of the virus.

De Leon said the FMD virus could not have entered the village through an infected pig because FMD checkpoints are still in place in the province.

He said La Union has been free of FMD for two years.

He said he has advised municipal agriculturists in 19 La Union towns and San Fernando City to discourage livestock buyers from getting their pigs from the affected villages in Luna and Balaoan, as they are potential carriers of the FMD virus.

Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Chito Ilonggo: Putting music to the pain of OFWs

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTÉ
Iloilo City

LOCAL artists, fledging musicians and fans of Ilonggo music staged an elaborate welcome for an Ilonggo folksinger who had worked his way in the United States to produce an album of songs.

Huge streamers and billboards were seen all over Iloilo City when Luisito Macatual, popularly known as Chito Ilonggo, arrived July 1 to launch his album, "Chito Ilonggo sa Chicago."

Scores of local musicians staged a cavalcade around the city, while hundreds showed up at Macatual's welcome concert at a mall. The turnout surprised Macatual, who had been absent in the local music scene since 1994.

"We're happy to be back and sing before an audience that remembers us all these years," said Macatual, who was with his wife Jocelyn and 10-year-old son Aybil.

The musicians said they were happy to receive Macatual who, despite his strides and successes elsewhere, has always wended his way back home.

In 1993, Macatual packed his bags in Libya and returned to Iloilo to launch his debut album, "Dugo Sang Isa Ka Ilonggo." The carrier song, with the same title, was nominated Best in Regional Song Recording in the 1994 Awit Awards.

Last month, he returned to Iloilo to launch his second album. Its carrier song, "Sa Puso Ko, Ika'y Nag-iisa" became the most requested in Iloilo City, weeks after it was released in early June. The CD version is selling fast in major music stores in the city.

Next year, Macatual and his wife are planning to promote the album in Manila.

Probably what makes Macatual special to the local audience is his ability to touch the heartstrings through his songs. Many of the songs in his two albums are about love, but these are juxtaposed in situations that are all too familiar to many Ilonggos, like a spouse missing his or her beloved who left for abroad to be able to support a family.

Greater hurt

The love songs speak of a greater hurt, which is the plight of overseas contract workers, of whom Iloilo has legions. The province is an out-migration area and among the top exporters of domestic helpers, nurses and sea-based workers. Their dollar remittances fuel the local economy.

A few of Macatual's songs prick the collective conscience of the Ilonggos, like the ballad about an unsung jeepney driver in his first album and the "Pagkamulat," a song about the destruction of the environment in the second album.

Two other songs in the recent album relate to Chito Ilonggo's role as a father, with one of these sung by his son Aybil.

But sadder is the cut in his second album, "Pilipina," that speaks about problems of an undocumented migrant or worker abroad. The song reveals the exploitation, racism and discrimination suffered by Filipino women. Sometimes, the women have nowhere else to go because even their countrymen can't be counted on to assist them.

Macatual, though, is blessed to have a community of Filipino expatriates, contract workers and Filipino-Americans who helped him produce and sell his album in the US, Europe and Middle East.

His wife, a nurse, said they easily recouped the $7,000 they had spent for the second album because it was selling like hotcakes in Filipino communities abroad.

When he is not working at United Airlines at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Macatual heads for Giga Recording Studio to record his songs. The studio is owned by Clemente Yanong, whose 12-year-old son Giga played the saxophone in three of Macatual's songs.

Macatual's business relation with Yanong developed into friendship and mutual respect for each other's talents according to Jocelyn.

The studio owner helped a lot in seeing to it that the second album was released on time. "He was just as excited in the release of the album," Jocelyn said.

His colleagues at UA were surprised to learn that he is a recording artist. This they discovered when Macatual did the opening act in a concert of "Superstar" Nora Aunor on Oct. 27, 2000 at the Rialto Theater in Joliet, Illinois. One even blurted out, "What are you doing here when you're already famous in your country?"

A newly discovered singing personality in Chicago, Macatual was invited to other concerts and appeared at the Chicago Philippine Reports TV on Channel 23.

Inspiration

Macatual started singing and playing the guitar at age 10. He was a favorite folksinger in restaurants like Shakey's, Bodega Pub, Elegancia's Attic Folkhouse, Highway Express, H.A.V.E. Folkhouse and Kamalig.

In Manila, he claimed to have sung in popular folkhouses like Father's Moustache and Hobbit's House, and alternately sang with celebrities like Freddie Aguilar, Father and Sons, Asin, Ram Lopez, Coritha, Paul Galang, Sonny Parsons and Pol Toledo.

Aguilar, who gave Macatual the name Chito Ilonggo, became his inspiration. The former's influence is also heard in the strains of Macatual's music.

In his five-year stay in Libya, Chito Ilonggo was a member of the Eurasia Band, a multiracial group. He was also named Best Folk Singer in Libya by the Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawang Pilipino sa Libya.

Cebu's 'adopted son' unblemished no more

BY MALOU GUANZON-APALISOK
Cebu City

SEN. Panfilo Lacson, then a rising police officer, built a tough cop image in Cebu. His exploits in Cebu when he was assigned to the city from 1989 to 1992 earned for him the status of "adopted son."

Now, Cebuanos are wary about allegations of money laundering involving their adopted son. Some sectors want him stripped of the privilege.

Cebuanos can count by their fingers the non-natives on whom the privilege of "adopted" citizen has been conferred.

The list includes two foreigners—a government official of Harlemermeer, Holland and a Taiwanese executive of Acer Company. The Harlemermeer mayor donated hospital equipment and brand-new fire trucks to the city, while the Taiwanese was responsible for the hiring of thousands of Cebuanos to the Taiwan-based computer company.

To the select list was added the name of Panfilo Lacson for excellent performance as chief of the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police's Cebu Metropolitan District Command from 1989 to 1992.

Lacson then was constantly in the limelight, in the middle of police operations against high profile crimes. On lean days, he can still manage to be in the news for admonishing police officials and ordinary policemen caught sleeping during one of the Metrodiscom chief's surprise inspections.

His popularity stemmed from successful campaigns to rid Cebu of crimes.

One of the celebrated cases that rocked Cebu in 1989 was the kidnapping of the grandson of the Gaisanos, the family that owns a string of retail stores in Cebu and the Visayas. Kept in custody for three days, the victim was rescued by Lacson's men in a beach resort in Lapulapu City. Two of three kidnappers were killed.

Impressed

Cebuanos were greatly impressed after Lacson swiftly solved the Oct. 5, 1989 Far East Bank Robbery in Mandaue City. He led the raid on the house of Army Lt. Col. Ceferino Layao, suspected to have supplied arms to the holduppers. It did not take long for Lacson to solve the bank robbery. A witness pointed to former Bantayan town mayor Rex Escario as having masterminded the heist. He was subsequently arrested, charged with and convicted of the crime, along with seven others. Layao was eventually court-martialed and dismissed from the military service.

Part of the loot amounting to over P960,000 and six vehicles used by the holduppers were also recovered. It was said that some operatives wanted a cut of the stolen money but Lacson put his foot down.

Such stories have made Lacson a legend during his Cebu Metrodiscom days. According to Rene Borromeo, a newspaper and radio reporter who covered the police beat, Lacson instilled discipline in the PC-INP ranks and showed nerves of steel in running after criminals. It's the stuff that made his image as tough cop, a regular fare in the press for the most part of his three-year assignment in Cebu.

The relentless campaign against criminality plus a work ethic that constantly kept the police force on its toes earned for Lacson the respect of the Cebuano community. After Lacson's tour of duty in Cebu ended, the City Council passed a resolution extending him the status "Adopted Son."

'Enemy of the people'

The tough cop, though, had his share of critics. In 1989, many workers staged labor strikes that crippled a number of local companies and factories. In the center of the restive elements were militant labor organizations and urban poor groups. Tagged as communist fronts, some leaders were killed. Others disappeared or were believed to have been "salvaged."

One of them was Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) community organizer Jimmy Badayos who was seized in his house by Metrodiscom elements in 1989. Brought to the Metrodiscom Camp for questioning, Badayos later on disappeared, giving rise to speculations that he was salvaged. Lacson denied the allegations, saying Badayos escaped from PC-INP custody. However, to this day, Bayan believes Lacson had a hand in the disappearance of Badayos.

'TO TELL the truth and nothing but the truth . . .' Lacson takes his oath during a hearing in the Senate in July shortly before he was proclaimed senator. FILE/ERIK ARAZAS

Bayan Central Visayas chair Paul Rodriguez said the case of Badayos and the recent spate of accusations by Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp) chief Col. Victor Corpus against Lacson had firmed up perceptions that Lacson is an "enemy of the people."

Rodriguez said even during Lacson's stint as Cebu Metrodiscom chief, Bayan has always been "suspicious" of how Lacson solved big crimes, a "phenomenon" that could be explained by the disclosures of Colonel Corpus.

Borromeo likewise recalled how Lacson's men "disposed" of a notorious police character, Amado Galan, and a conspirator who were named responsible for a string of robbery cases in Metro Cebu. Policemen held the suspects in custody but they were reported to have escaped. They were later discovered dead in a city barangay prompting allegations of salvaging.

"As far as progressive organizations are concerned, Lacson is KY, *kaaway sa katawhan* (enemy of the people)," Rodriguez told the INQUIRER.

Bayan Cebu has joined other local cause oriented groups to form Plunder Watch to monitor the plunder case against ousted President Joseph Estrada. The new coalition also called on the Senate to investigate Lacson's money laundering activities and for Lacson to be charged with plunder as well.

After the INQUIRER bannered the story of Lacson's multimillion-dollar hoard in foreign banks, Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama and Councilors Manuel Legaspi, Gerardo Carillo and Procopio Fernandez said they are willing to support a resolution that would strip Lacson of the adopted son title.

But former Cebu Gov. Vicente de la Serna, who also served as deputy executive secretary during the Estrada administration, said calls to strip Lacson of his status or condemning him for the charges aired by Corpus, "is too judgmental."

"Lacson should not be judged this early. To condemn him now and strip him of that status would be too judgmental."

De la Serna, a former congressman who chaired the House committee on justice and human rights in the 8th Congress, said there were no charges of human rights violations filed against Lacson for acts he committed during his Cebu assignment.

'Not yet time'

Cebu City Mayor Osmeña admitted he is reluctant to strip Lacson of his adopted son status.

"Somebody did a good job and you give an award for that. Then he did (something) bad somewhere else, will you withdraw the award for the good job that he did?" Osmeña said.

Gov. Pablo Garcia said "it is not yet time" to strip Lacson of the privilege but said Lacson should be investigated by the Senate blue ribbon and ethics committees.

Early this month, the Provincial Board passed a resolution supporting calls for the Senate to investigate Lacson. The board resolution also said it was necessary for Cebu to take a stand on whether to support the call for the investigation of Lacson.

Osmeña disagreed with the resolution.

"How could we take a stand (from) where we are when he is still undergoing an investigation?"

Even if some members of the City Council earlier expressed willingness to strip Lacson of the title, the body believes it is still premature to tackle the matter.

Osmeña's friendship with Lacson is common knowledge in Cebu. A former Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) officer in Central Visayas, a Lacson protegé, was a staunch supporter of Osmeña during the campaign for the May 14 elections.

Former PAOCTF 7 chief Benjamin Paclibar's house was raided by the Criminal Investigation and Detection group due to persistent reports that he was hiding armed men and unlicensed firearms, but the raid yielded negative results.

Paclibar criticized the police operation alleging that the camp of then incumbent Mayor Alvin Garcia instigated the raid.

But despite Lacson's positive performance posted during a previous assignment, Cebu did not vote for its adopted son in the May 14 elections.

Cebuanos voted 12-1 in favor of the People Power Coalition, with only broadcaster Noli de Castro of the Puwersa ng Masa surviving the near PPC straight win in Cebu.

The downside to a celebrity status like that of Lacson's is that it attracts public attention when he least wants it.

On Oct. 28 last year, the then Philippine National Police chief visited Cebu, a trip described as a "mystery" because local police officials professed not to know the reason for the visit.

PAOCTF Visayas was always the first to know about the itinerary of any of Lacson's visit here, except for this one.

Then PAOCTF Visayas chief Teofilo Viña said he was not informed of the visit, but clarified there was nothing irregular about the secrecy of the visit as Lacson is noted for conducting surprise inspections.

Lacson visited Cebu amid mounting clamors for the resignation of then President Estrada. There were reports a PNP realignment had taken place as a result of the political crisis, a matter that police officials refused to confirm that time.

Houses in Cebu?

Recently, rumors surfaced that Lacson owns four houses in Cebu. Two are allegedly located in Mandaue City and two others are in Barangay Banilad, Cebu City. Asked if the Police Regional Office would look into the reported real estate property of Senator Lacson, PRO 7 Director Avelino Razon said he is willing to investigate if there is an order from the Department of Justice, top PNP officials or the Armed Forces.

Razon added he has no idea about Lacson's alleged real estate property in Cebu.

The possibility of losing the title of Cebu's adopted son might be the least of Lacson's worries at this time, but out here in his adopted city, serious allegations of money laundering have obscured the "sterling" record of his previous assignment.

Transparency, media, women

ECHOES FROM LEYTE

Loly Perez Isiderio

FOR THE last three or four decades, there have been changes in our government, but it is only in the last two years or so that we have come to understand so many confusing things going on around us.

We are told that all these things have been around us for ages, but it is only now that they have been shown to all of us, nationwide and in the local scene. The secret that enables us to know is transparency.

However, transparency has led us to some confusion. Suddenly, there is too much we are told to understand. It is overwhelming. In a way, we here in Leyte are told to participate in national issues because we find ourselves personally involved.

At first, the transparency was taken in a one-sided way as through a glass darkly. The impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada was avidly watched on TV. So were Edsa 2, 3 and an aborted coup plan.

But the first real impact that the transparency of governance hit us was when the matter of "money-laundering" was made clear to us and we followed the paper trail on TV that led to millions of US dollars ending in bank accounts transferred to foreign bank accounts by government leaders.

It is a paradox but it is the gospel truth. Laundering, which normally ends in pure white clothes, this time ends in very dirty linen. For this kind of money laundering means the "cleansing of funds raised from illegal activities like drug-trafficking, kidnapping, and racketeering, among others, mainly through banks in countries with lax banking regulations." (PDI, Sec. B1, Wed., Aug. 8, 2001).

The Philippines is listed among 17 nations seen as uncooperative and will categorized as such unless Congress passes anti-laundering bills before Sept. 30 this year.

This transparency of governance, which is the priority of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is an inspiration to local government leaders. For one, her once-a-week meeting with the legislative branch has been instituted here in Leyte. Gov. Remedios Petilla has also started an executive-legislative meeting once a week when she is in town.

In Tacloban City, we understood that Mayor Alfredo Romualdez did invite members of the city council to such a meeting, but it was held only once.

Petilla also created task forces to solve problems of different departments. The governor was quoted recently by the Leyte-Samar Daily Express as saying that the problems that continue to plague the provincial engineering office will be addressed by one such task force. Other task forces to look into other departments are also being formed. She expects these task forces to submit findings and recommendations on a regular basis.

* * *

About fifty women leaders of Eastern Visayas have scheduled a two-day conference (Aug.29-30) at the Leyte Park Hotel in Tacloban City. Joy Tambis Go of the Institute for Democratic Participation and Governance said the conference on Women in Politics and Local Governance "is in recognition of the emerging trend that many women are now taking the lead in politics and local governance."

The women governors of Eastern Visayas are Petilla, Rosette Lerias (Southern Leyte), Milagros Tan (Samar) and Clotilde Salazar (Eastern Samar).

Leyte Representatives Trinidad Apostol (2nd District), Ma. Victoria Locsin (4th District) and Carmen Cari (5th District) are the female members of the House of Representatives. The lone female vice governor is Eva Tomol of Southern Leyte.

* * *

Governor Petilla returned last month from her visit to Saipan where she maximized her working visit, urging Northern Marianas Islands businessmen to invest in Leyte. She invited members of the Saipan Rotary Club to visit the historic island of Leyte and consider investing in the province.

Petilla was in Saipan to open a mini-handicraft exhibit featuring native products from Leyte. Trade regional director Cynthia Nierras and Teresita Abando accompanied her on the trip.

Before returning to Leyte, she called on Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Island Gov. Pedro Tenorio. Both governors are on their third term, which means they have mutual and common interests for good governance.

'I don't know whom to believe anymore'

(From page A1)

"President would like to express her confidence in the integrity of Senators Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro." Mawanay had accused Legarda of purchasing 1,000 smuggled cellular phones from Lacson, and De Castro of taking bribes from the former Philippine National Police chief. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

"She regrets that the two senators' uprightness have been dragged into the Senate's investigation," the statement read.

But, it added, "the President however emphasized that she fully supports the joint operations of the intelligence services" of the military and the police "to investigate reports of massive money-laundering linked to the illegal drug trade, and to neutralize organized crime in the country."

"She is confident that the Senate will be supportive of these operations undertaken in order to end the scourge of the illegal drug trade and of organized crime, which have become threats to national security," the statement said.

Reactions in the House of Representatives to the separate testimony of Corpus and Mawanay were mixed.

Listening to the radio broadcast of the investigation from their cars after attending a workshop in Clark, many congressmen later shared the opinion that Mawanay may have damaged his testimony with his sketchy accusation against Legarda.

Surigao Del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers found it "unthinkable that Legarda would enmesh herself in such an illegal activity."

"We have always known Sen. Legarda as most upright and if we are to choose whom to believe, between her and Mawanay, I would believe a senator over a self-confessed con man," Barbers said.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano noted that if Legarda had indeed purchased the 1,000 cellular phones for P8.9 million, "it was illogical that someone out to grab a bargain would pay P8,900 for a cell phone worth only about P4,000."

Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo said Mawanay's testimony was "too perfect, too brilliant, too good to be true."

"There were no lapses . . . When the story is that perfect, it's a lie," Gunigundo claimed.

Caloocan Rep. Rico Echiverri expressed shock at the supposed extent of Lacson's alleged involvement in criminal activities.

Cayetano also expressed concern that the Senate investigation could drag on and severely affect legislative work at the Senate.

'Waste of time'

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan described yesterday's hearing as a "waste of time," lambasting senators for their failure to extract significant evidence to either prove or disprove the allegations.

But Bayan also did not spare Corpus from criticism, saying he presented "nothing new" to substantiate his charges.

Bayan public information officer Anthony Ian Cruz said that despite the inquiry, "the truth is still out there."

The Philippine Bar Association said it was wrong for Corpus to try Lacson in the arena of public opinion.

PBA incoming president Federico Y. Alikpala Jr. said Corpus should have charged Lacson in the justice department or in the courts instead of hurling accusations against the latter through the media.

"While Corpus may have ready access to the media, Lacson was not given equal opportunity to air his side," claimed Alikpala.

He issued the statement after Corpus told senators that he decided to expose Lacson in the press due to the snail-pace progress of cases being handled by trial courts as well as the presence of allegedly corrupt judges in the judiciary.

Missing Miriam

Jane Garcia, 23, a salesperson in a convenience store in Pasig City, said she found Ador even more believable than Corpus.

"He strikes me as someone who really knows what he's saying. He was consistent in his statements, no matter how the senators tried to catch him," she said.

Billie Cabalona, 28, a housewife, said the hearing reminded her of the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada, though she said she "kind of missed the manner of questioning of former Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago."

"But the Senate hearing is exciting because you never know who among the senators will be linked to corruption next," she added. ***With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Philip Tubeza and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

YOU: We believe in Vic

(From page A1)

"know who they are."

One middle-level RAM officer said, "the cleansing of our institutions, from government to media, is long overdue."

"The mood in the military camps is not (one of restiveness) but more of impatience. We have been campaigning for reforms in government since 1986 but we have yet to see any improvements," Cardeño said.

"We are not the destabilizers here. In fact, we are the stabilizers of government by going after the corrupt officials," he claimed.

'It takes courage'

"The military is behind Corpus," Cardeño said, when asked to assess the common sentiment in military camps with regard to the Isafp chief's investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged involvement in criminal activities.

"We believe in Vic," retired Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, RAM spokesperson, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"It takes courage to do what he has done," Maligalig said. "An officer who is more concerned about himself will not do that."

As Corpus was being subjected to a bruising inquisition from senators, young military officers tapped text messages to one another and conferred on mobile phones, cheering the Isafp chief on.

Another officer said Corpus had further endeared himself to his admirers within and outside the military.

"No one can impugn his integrity," this officer said. "Colonel Corpus has our support."

Like a fresh grad

Maligalig said that while Corpus may have made mistakes, "he is a person who errs on the side of principle."

"Corpus typifies the fresh graduate of the Philippine Military Academy: full of idealism and integrity," Maligalig said.

Maligalig lamented that some senators chose to either deal with side issues or split hairs on certain matters instead of trying to determine whether Corpus indeed had the goods on Lacson.

"Just like in the impeachment hearings, some of the senators are showing their half-slips, their political inclinations," Maligalig said.

"They're trying to hit the messenger in Corpus, when in fact the issue is whether Lacson is involved in organized crime," he added, maintaining that the hearing became just a "political game" instead of a focused effort to ferret out the truth.

Another coup rumor

The statements came in the wake of rumors that a coup plot is brewing in the military camps. Cardeño confirmed that there are such rumors but denied his group was part of such a plot.

"We are giving the system a chance by getting rid of the people who are twisting it," he said.

According to him, the YOU supports the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo, particularly in its campaign against graft and corruption.

Cardeño also took the opportunity to disown Baron Cervantes, who claims to be a spokesperson of the YOU. Cervantes recently issued a statement saying that the group demands the resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

Cardeño denied Cervantes' statement, adding that the group supports the secretary and the chief of staff.

Conspiracy theory

Sen. John Osmeña said he had received reports that another coup attempt is afoot, this time reportedly led by former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa.

In yesterday's Senate hearing, Osmeña said De Villa could be behind the investigation launched by Corpus.

According to the senator, the conspiracy involved Corpus undermining the integrity of the judiciary and the legislature by claiming that judges, senators and congressmen can be bought.

He said the coup attempt was supposed to be financed by prominent businessmen in Makati. "It was supposed to happen in June, but former President (Fidel) Ramos objected to it," he told reporters later.

By destroying "civilian institutions," he said, the coup plotters would give the people the impression that there was no choice but to agree to a military junta.

Osmeña also said another plan involved Reyes, who is reportedly running for President in 2004.

He said Reyes is also reportedly egging Corpus to hit Lacson and now Sen. Loren Legarda, who was yesterday accused of buying smuggled cellular phones. *(Story on Page A1.)*

"He's destroying all prospective rivals" for the presidency, Osmeña claimed.

"Poor Little Red Riding Hood, he's caught between two wolves," he said, referring to Corpus, De Villa and Reyes.

During the hearing, Corpus admitted hearing of a coup plot, but dismissed it as a rumor. Reyes also said he was "not involved or thinking of mounting any coup."

"These are reports that we should not take seriously," Reyes said, adding that if anyone plans to do such a thing, telling Corpus about it should be the last thing they do.

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Manila – Cebu	356	712	Iloilo – Cebu	250	500
Manila – Tacloban	353	706	Bacolod – Cebu	250	500
Manila – Bacolod	299	598	Davao – Zamboanga	250	500
Manila – Iloilo	281	562			

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1896, Series of 2001.

Senators send witness to jail

(From page A1)

good senator."

It turned out that his son, Mikmik, was celebrating his birthday yesterday.

Bearing a birthday cake, Mawanay's wife and two children arrived at his detention cell last night. It was not clear whether they would be allowed to spend the night.

Mawanay, the military's star witness against Lacson, was invited by a joint hearing of the Senate blue ribbon, public order and national defense committees to shed light on Lacson's alleged illegal activities.

But the three committees ordered Mawanay, who is under the custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), placed in the custody of the Senate until he had produced documents substantiating his allegation against Legarda.

It was Legarda herself who brought up Mawanay's allegation, which, she said Corpus revealed to her more than a month ago.

Legarda repeatedly warned Mawanay to retract his statement that she bought P8.9 million worth of smuggled cell phones from him, and was incensed when he refused to do so.

"Could it be possible that it was not me?" she said. He calmly replied: "It's impossible."

Christmas gifts

At two instances Legarda asked Mawanay the circumstances of her supposed purchase.

He said he had received a letter sent by fax from Legarda's office ordering 1,000 cell phones that, he said, the senator had intended as Christmas gifts.

Mawanay stunned the Senate when he said he personally met Legarda in the vicinity of Star City at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex in December 1998.

He said Legarda was in a car but that he could not remember the make or color of the vehicle. He said he and a "Mang Ben" loaded the boxes of cell phones in a white L-300 van that served as backup vehicle for the senator.

Mawanay said Legarda handed him a check, which, he said, he turned over to Lacson.

Legarda immediately said that she never traveled with a backup car.

Upon questioning by Senators Sergio Osmeña and Rodolfo Biazon, Mawanay said Legarda probably used a "four-door" car.

"The make I can't remember but it's a sedan . . . as I can remember," he said.

Mawanay also later said he remembered having delivered Nokia 3210 cell phones to Legarda, although he still could not be sure of the make of her car or how many boxes of cell phones he brought.

Biazon said he could not believe that Mawanay could remember details of his other transactions with Lacson and company yet forget those of his transaction with Legarda.

"You have a selective memory. You remember it was 3210 (cell phones) but you don't remember the make or the color of the car," he said.

Mawanay told Biazon that he did not include his transaction with Legarda in his statement because he could not remember the details.

Fairy tale

Legarda hotly denied what she described as a "fairy tale."

She asked Mawanay to produce the alleged fax order coming from her office and the check, but he said the papers were lost in a flood that ravaged his home in Divisoria.

Mawanay stood firm on his story when Legarda asked him to swear to God and the Filipino people that he was telling the truth.

She berated him for making the "ridiculous, preposterous, if not amusing" allegation against her.

"I was inclined to believe you . . . but you have lost all credibility," she told him.

It was Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who moved to have the Senate Sergeant at Arms detain Mawanay because of the "gravity" of his allegation against Legarda.

Pimentel also chided Corpus for taking Mawanay's claims as "gospel truth."

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the committee on public order, said the three committees were agreed that Mawanay should be detained until he had produced the supporting papers.

For his part, Corpus told Legarda that he had disregarded Mawanay's claims because the ex-agent could not produce documentary evidence against her.

"I still believe in your integrity, and I want to apologize for what has happened," Corpus said.

In his detention cell, Mawanay told reporters that he was standing by what he had said.

"It's OK even if they kill me now. At least I was able to tell the truth," he said.

Guevarra said the Isafp would have to produce the required papers for the detained Mawanay.

An irate Legarda said she would file perjury charges against Mawanay.

"I don't know what his game plan is . . . but it's a ridiculous fairy tale," Legarda told reporters after the Senate hearing. "It was unfortunate that I was inclined to believe him."

Hot seat

Other senators—Noli de Castro and Vicente Sotto III—were also put on the hot seat at yesterday's hearing.

De Castro came into the picture when he himself brought up Mawanay's allegation that he and then fellow broadcast journalists Korina Sanchez and Ted Failon received grease money from Lacson when the latter was still chief of the Philippine National Police.

Sotto, on the other hand, was identified by Corpus as one of the "few bad eggs in the Senate."

De Castro confronted Mawanay on his claim that he had handed P3 million each to the then broadcaster and his two colleagues at the ABS-CBN network.

Mawanay denied mentioning the amount in a radio interview, as claimed by De Castro.

But he stood by his account that he delivered the money in a shoebox to De Castro in 1999 at Gutson's Billiards on Tomas Morato in Quezon City. He said he saw De Castro inside a Pajero vehicle with two other persons.

De Castro, however, said he did not own a Pajero and denied ever taking any money from Lacson.

At the hearing, Corpus linked Sotto to suspected drug lord Alfredo Tiongco.

He said that in 1966 Sotto wrote then Interior Secretary Robert Barbers to seek security for Tiongco who was allegedly receiving death threats.

In a statement, Sotto dismissed Corpus' accusation as a "demolition job."

"It's an old song, and it is apparent that Corpus made this statement because he was losing ammunition," Sotto said.

He said his first reaction was to get mad at the colonel, but that he now felt more pity.

"It looks like Corpus is drowning in his own lies," Sotto said. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Witness still in 'lion's den'

EX-CIVILIAN agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay is being held in an empty room in the basement of the Senate, near the office of the Sergeant at Arms.

The room is air-conditioned and has a sofa and a TV set. But its striking feature is a glass window facing the parking lot, which Mawanay's Senate security ordered covered.

A detail sent by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is complementing Mawanay's 24-hour Senate security.

Asked to comment on the arrangements, lawyer Argee Guevarra, a member of Mawanay's legal support group, said the ex-agent was "still in the lion's den."

Guevarra said Mawanay's detention was "troubling and emotionally unsettling" because he was up against a senator. *Christine Avendaño*

Ador has backpack to prove his point

(From page A1)

known as "Ador," came prepared. He brought a backpack with him.

He did not bring a change of clothes, however, which he now needs after Sen. Robert Barbers ordered him detained by the Senate sergeant-at-arms.

He brought 15 kilos of "rock salt," to demonstrate that it was indeed possible to load 15 kilos of shabu inside an ordinary backpack—contrary to a previous statement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that an ordinary backpack could not possibly handle such a load.

Mawanay's bag led to one of the few comical moments in an otherwise tense hearing, when Sen. Rodolfo Biazon tangled with him on the relative "density" of shabu and rock salt.

President's son

The backpack, Mawanay said, was how he delivered a total of 80 kilos of shabu to former presidential son Jude Estrada, alleged drug lord Kim Wong and two other people, allegedly upon orders of former police chief Panfilo Lacson.

"I carried it in a backpack so I would not get noticed," he said.

He told the Senate hearing investigating Lacson's alleged criminal activities that the former police general personally handed over the illegal drugs to him at the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force office in Camp Crame.

"I get the shabu from (Lacson at) the PAOCTF (office), contained in an attaché case or a black bag. I just transfer them to another bag," Mawanay said in Filipino.

"I carry the drugs in a backpack. I don't take a taxi or go with an escort. I just take the jeep or the bus so I would not attract attention," he added.

Mawanay claimed Lacson ordered him to deliver 15 kilos of shabu to Jude Estrada during the first week of February 1999 at the Starbucks coffee shop "behind Virra Mall" in Greenhills, San Juan.

He said Lacson referred to Estrada as the "son of Asiong Salonga," alluding to the alias allegedly used by former President Joseph Estrada in the so-called ledger of jueteng collections.

Mawanay said he walked from Camp Crame to Greenhills carrying the 15 kilos of shabu in a mountaineer's backpack.

He claimed Estrada personally received the shabu but did not give any payment saying he had already spoken with "Alas (Ace)," which Mawanay said was Lacson's code name.

Another delivery

Lacson ordered him to deliver another 15 kilos of shabu to Estrada at the same place in July 1999. He said he carried the shabu in a travelling bag.

This time, he said, Estrada introduced him to his companion, a certain Harry Cuevas whom Estrada allegedly introduced as the "son of (former justice secretary and Supreme Court) Justice Serafin Cuevas."

In both instances, he said, he was met at the entrance of Starbucks by six men whom he took to be members of the Presidential Security Group, and that he was frisked before he entered the coffee shop.

He said Lacson also ordered him to deliver 20 kilos of shabu to Kim Wong twice: 10 kilos in April 1999 and another 10 kilos in January 2000.

Mawanay said that in both instances, Wong personally received the shabu at the Seafood Wharf restaurant beside the Quirino Grandstand, a restaurant that he reportedly owns.

Wong has denied he is a drug lord as claimed by military intelligence officials, but admitted he is good friends with Lacson.

Mawanay said he would call the PAOCTF office the next day to report that he had done his job.

He claimed he also delivered 20 kilos and 10 kilos of shabu respectively to a certain Akmad in Quiapo, Manila, in January 1998 and to a certain Jerry Sy in Binondo, Manila, in 1999.

Mawanay said the first time he met Jude Estrada was in January 1999 when he allegedly saw him give a black bag which he (Mawanay) later found to contain P15 million to Lacson's aide, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino.

He said the same day he saw missing Pagcor employee Edgar Bentain buried alive in Pampanga upon Aquino's supervision.

Bentain, who leaked a videotape showing President Estrada gambling with Charlie "Atong" Ang, has been missing since 1998.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 18, 2001
19th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Jos 24:14-29*
Gospel: *Mt 19:13-15*

Little children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them with a prayer. But the disciples scolded those who brought them. Jesus then said, "Let them be! Do not stop the children from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to people such as these." So Jesus laid his hands on them and went his way.

Commentary:

The reader might be surprised at the rather strong reaction of the disciples to those who brought children to Jesus. Who would react in such a way to parents with children? The reason is that, for Matthew, these children are not only the little innocent ones. They also represent all those people who were marginalized and despised in the church. The wider context of this reading shows that these little ones are in fact people who had caused scandals, the sinners and the divorcees. Within this context the attitude of the disciples becomes understandable. They represent the harsh attitude of the members of the church toward these people. Matthew exposes this conduct as wrong and invites them to become like Jesus who came to call sinners.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your infinite love for us. Grant that we may share our love with those who are most in need of it.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (TORTS AND DAMAGES)—Moral or compensatory damages—Actual or compensatory damages cannot be presumed but must be proved with reasonable degree of certainty. A court cannot rely on speculations, conjectures or guesswork as to the fact of damage but must depend upon competent proof that they have indeed been suffered by the injured party and on the basis of the best evidence obtainable as to the actual amount thereof. It must point out specific facts that could provide the gauge for measuring whatever compensatory or actual damages were borne. There is no proof that petitioner already paid for the value of the undelivered and uninstalled materials to respondent. Therefore, petitioner may not be deemed to have suffered any such damage. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Lagon v. Hooven Comalco Industries Inc., G.R. No. 135657, January 17, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Kiwi leads PGA Championship; Duval 2 behind but Woods 9 shots back

WAITE

DULUTH, Georgia—The record book is filled with obscure guys who led after the first round of a major tournament. Yesterday, Grant Waite joined the list.

The New Zealand golfer, who had missed six straight cuts coming in and never played well in the majors, shot a 6-under 64 to lead the PGA Championship.

No one was more surprised than Waite.

"I want to look back and say I had a good time with it," he said. "Hopefully, I will continue to play well. If I don't, I don't."

Until now, Waite was best known as the victim of one of Woods' most spectacular shots. Now, it's Woods (73) who finds himself trailing the 36-year-old Kiwi by nine strokes.

Woods isn't on the radar screen, tied for 100th and needing a strong round Friday just to make the cut. But nine players, including David Duval and Phil Mickelson, were just two shots off the lead. *AP*

Subic hosting Pacific baseball

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority's newly built baseball stadium, designed in accordance with international standards, will be the venue of the first Pan-Pacific youth baseball championships Aug. 24-31.

"Our thrust is to make the SBMA not only an industrial complex but also the country's sports center where local and international sporting events are held. We fully support baseball and our complex is open to local officials who want to conduct their international tournaments here," said SBMA chair Tong Payumo.

The organizing Philippine Tot Baseball Foundation Inc., headed by Rodolfo "Boy" Tingzon Jr., said entries will come from Taipei, Singapore, Japan, Korea, the United States, Mexico and Australia.

MayniLA ousted

THE PHILIPPINES' MayniLA Golden Girls lost a championship slot yesterday when it bowed to Michigan, 5-3, in the 16-18 Girls Big League in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

SPORTSWATCH

Checkmate lectures today

THE FIFTH series of Milo Checkmate clinic will start its formal lectures today at the Badminton Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila and 2/F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. The clinic starts at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. at RMSC. The GSC clinic is from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

60 pass screening

MORE than 60 cockers and breeders from Metro Manila and the nearby provinces have passed the screening for the BL Showdown 7-Stag National Derby set for Sept. 3, 5 and 7 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Danny (Showdown) Ty, together with co-promoter Boy "Lechon" de Roca and Juancho Aguirre, announced that there will be screening for the Lakpue Drug-sponsored derby every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Roligon.

San Lazaro hosts Lakambini

EIGHT of the country's leading race fillies take aim at this year's distaff crown as they compete in tomorrow's featured running of the Philracom-sponsored Lakambini Stakes Race, a P750,000-added restricted event sent over 1,690-meters at the San Lazaro Hippodrome. "The Lakambini Stakes is an integral part of the annual stakes calendar recognizing the value and contribution of the country's leading female families," said Philracom chair Andrew A. Sanchez. Heading the field is classic campaigner Sky Hawk.

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Race 5—1. D Optician 2. Thunder Dragon 3. Aya's Star 4. Charmingly Chit
Race 6—1. Howard Huge 2. Perfect Lyza 3. Rainmaker 4. Red Fury 5. The Topnotcher
Race 7—1. El Condor 2. Foreign Exchange 3. Miguel's Pet
Race 8—1. Go Johnny Go 2. Knows Love 3. Come In Glory 4. Classy Babe 5. Noble Heart
Race 9—1. Prince of Africa 2. Yoko Lady 3. Busanda Strike 4. Charming Belle
Race 10—1. Palachik 2. Arigato 3. Nuts Again 4. He's Splendid 5. Dragon Doding
Race 11—1. Moving Target 2. Waw 3. Golden Figure 4. Rising Fast
Race 12—1. Uzisaki 2. Maayo Sigaw 3. As for Me 4. King Edward 5. Snowy Market 6. Sun Chief
Race 13—1. Angela's Storm 2. Breakaway Artist 3. Monopoly 4. Gimme A Ring

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But British Open champion David Duval will cover each hole to make the quest for a triple crown even sandier.
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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

GMA to PSC: Set up women's desk

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo directed yesterday the Philippine Sports Commission to set up a women's desk to attend to women athletes' needs. During her weekly press conference in Malacañang, the President said that if the Philippine National Police has responded to the plight of women by setting up special desks handling women's cases, it is time for the PSC to follow suit.

SMB's Dorian Peña (left) and Nate Johnson sandwich Kerby Raymundo of Red Bull during a rebound scramble in Game 2 won by the Thunder, 92-86. The Beermen won last night, 100-91.

San Miguel wins

GAME TOMORROW (Araneta)
6 p.m. SMB vs Red Bull (Game 4)

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

SAN Miguel Beer finally woke up last night.

The defending champion wrestled Batang Red Bull back to the ground with a 100-91 win in Game 3 of their PBA Commissioner's Cup championship series at Philsports.

Unlike Games 1 and 2, which they both lost, the Beermen whipped up a solid endgame this time, banking on crucial breaks to repel the Thunder's persistent attacks and trim the best-of-seven series to 1-2.

SMB's Danny Ildefonso, Danny Seigle and Olsen Racela hit their free throws in the closing minutes to deflect Junthy Valenzuela's torrid three-point shooting in the third and fourth quarters.

Valenzuela's last triple with 2:08 left put Red Bull to within 86-88, but that proved to be the Thunder's last stand as the Beermen tightened their defenses going into the homestretch.

In the end, though, it was the Beermen's streak of free throws amid a barrage of Red Bull fouls that sealed the victory.

"Hopefully, we can manage to shift the pressure on them," said SMB coach Jong Uichico. "They are now pressured to win Game 4 because I don't think they want us to tie at 2-2."

The Beermen showed new-found spring in their moves as they challenged every shot, chased loose balls unceasingly and collared follow-up shots with intensity.

Red Bull's cause was derailed somewhat when Kerby Raymundo was thrown out for punching Dorian Peña, who had to be pinned down to the floor by teammate Nate Johnson to stop him from retaliating.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 100—Johnson 31, Ildefonso 20, Seigle 18, Belasco 12, Racela 8, Lago 6, Victoria 3, Peña 2.

RED BULL 91—Valenzuela 22, Lang 21, Torion 14, Pennisi 12, Agustin 7, Harp 6, Mendoza 4, Tugade 3, Briones 2, Raymundo 0, Reyes 0, Miller 0.

Quarters: 23-19; 45-41; 71-73; 100-91

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It's Negros by 18

GAME TOMORROW (USLS Gym, Bacolod City)
5 p.m.—Negros vs Andok's San Juan

BY ROY LUARCA

BACOLOD—When in-form, the Negros Slashers are really invincible at home.

Starting hot and getting the sustaining firepower from Jomar Tierra, the Slashers defeated the San Juan Knights, 93-75, last night in the opener of their MBA First Phase title series at the University of St. La Salle Gym here.

A 13-point windup, sparked by a four-point play by Cid White and capped by a triple by Tierra, pushed the Slashers ahead, 29-10. Propped up by the crowd, they never looked back from there to keep their unblemished slate at their homecourt.

The Slashers, now 7-0 at the USLS, target a repeat over the Knights in Game 2 of the best-of-five series at the same venue tomorrow.

Scores:

NEGROS 93—Tierra 21, Hugnatan 18, Ferriols 17, Cardel 13, White 7, Madrid 7, Ignacio 5, Huelar 5, Benedicto 0, Aldeguer 0, Primero 0, Dela Rosa 0.

ANDOK'S SAN JUAN 75—Reavis 18, Dacia 15, Castillo 10, Capobres 9, Victolero 8, Calaguio 7, Rodriguez 4, Banares 4, F. Rodriguez 0, Newton 0, Ferreria 0.

Quarters: 29-10, 45-33, 70-50, 93-75.

Carrion graces Nike

THE NIKE 3 on 3 National Finals will be held today at SM Megamall (not yesterday as erroneously reported yesterday). PSC Commissioner Cynthia Carrion will grace the opening ceremonies at 11 a.m.

UAAP Today (Loyola Gym)

2 p.m.—NU vs Ateneo
4 p.m.—La Salle vs FEU.

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Davao Leg Winners

Kiddies

Champion — Janmar B. Hondonero (Nabunturan Comprehensive High School - Compostela Valley)

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2nd Runner-up — Kenneth O. Ihalas (Nabunturan Comprehensive High School - Compostela Valley)

Juniors

Champion — Jayson B. Salubre (Carmen Nat'l. High School - Davao del Norte)

1st Runner-up — John Ritter V. Belocura (Sta. Ana Nat'l. High School - Davao City)

2nd Runner-up — Aldrin S. Salvatierra (Univ. of Southern Mindanao - Davao City)

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 18 912-8983

■ Runaway kills friend who gave him shelter A21

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Bible-toting quartet nabbed for car theft

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A BIBLE was among the pistol, bullets, car keys and license plate numbers found on four suspected car thieves police arrested yesterday in Quezon City.

Police also found three of the suspects to be underage Filipino-Chinese and the fourth to be a businessman allegedly involved in selling parts of stolen cars.

Two of the suspects, police said, were aged 16 and the other aged 17. All were out of school, jobless and residents of Banawe in Quezon City, said Supt. Walberto L. Mandin, Kamuning police station chief.

Also arrested was Virgilio de la Rosa Jr., 32, of 44 Agno St. in Banawe, Quezon City for his alleged involvement with the three young suspects, Mandin said.

Police found the Bible in a brown clutch bag that also contained a micro-Uzi machine pistol, two license plates, two Mercedes Benz car keys, a box of shotgun bullets, and another box filled with bullets for a .38 revolver and .45 pistol.

The suspects were arrested after a 17-year-old boy was caught on Thursday night trying to steal a white Toyota Corolla (TDY-773) at Dencio's Grill and Restaurant on Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

Police said the car's owner, businessman Blair Bautista, 30, had turned over the vehicle to parking valet Nelson Salazar, 41, who was about to

BIBLE/A21

'Galunggong' downs 180 Munti inmates

BY ALCUIN PAPA

SOME 180 inmates at the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa suffered from food poisoning Thursday night reportedly after eating the fish called *galunggong*.

Tez Valencia of the Muntinlupa City Hall public information office said the inmates were rushed to the NBP's hospital after they

'GALUNGGONG'/A21

DENNIS SABANGAN

THE carnap suspects are presented to media with the license plates of the vehicles they allegedly stole.

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48-hour water cutoff

A 48-HOUR water service interruption will affect the whole of Las Piñas City and parts of the cities of Pasay and Parañaque and Bacoor, Cavite next weekend as Maynilad Water Services Inc. connects pipelines to the existing system in Pasay and Parañaque.

The water service interruption will start at 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, and will last until 10 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26.

The following areas will have no water: The entire Las Piñas; MIA Road, Pildera I and II and Rivera Village in Pasay City; barangays Baclaran, Tambo, Dongalo, La Huerta, Sto. Niño, San Dionisio, San Isidro and Vitalez, the lower portion of San Antonio Valley, El Grande Avenue, BF Homes, Sun Valley, Casino Filipino and Ninoy Aquino Avenue in Parañaque City; and the whole of Bacoor except Aguinaldo Highway and Panapaan 7.

The domestic airport will experience from low-water pressure to no water at all.

Maynilad is advising customers in the affected areas to store water good for two days. They may call up, the Maynilad hotline, 1626, or coordinate with their barangay chairs for the water delivery schedule in their areas.

The newly-laid pipelines will be connected to the existing primary lines which currently serve the central and south business areas of Maynilad's West Zone.

The seven interconnections are situated on Roxas Boulevard near the Redemptorist Road and Roxas Boulevard near Rivera Street in Pasay; Roxas Boulevard near Airport Road, Roxas Boulevard corner MIA Road, Coastal Road south of the bridge, and Sucat Road corner Schilling Street at the Villanueva Subdivision in Parañaque.

JV vs sidewalk vendors

SAN JUAN Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito has stepped up efforts to clear the town's sidewalks of ambulant vendors in a bid to solve the traffic problem.

Ejercito complained about the traffic flow on most of the town's major streets, particularly N. Domingo which is right in front of the town hall.

"It takes me at least an hour to get to my office from my house when it should have been a 15- to 20-minute drive only," said the young mayor.

The son of deposed President Joseph Estrada lives on Ibuna Street in Barangay Onse with his mother, Guia Gomez.

Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, San Juan police chief, said his men started clearing the sidewalks of illegal vendors in late July.

"It is like a cat-and-mouse situation on the streets," De Gracia said. "We still have to make sure that the streets remain vendor-free after they are vacated."

Agnes E. Donato

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1 DUDURUGIN KO...
2 COOL DUDES
3 KISS OF THE DRAGON

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 PLANET OF THE APES
2 KISS OF THE DRAGON
3 RED DIARIES
4 RADYO

Jade Cinema
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2 RADYO
3 BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
4 (DTS) PLANET OF THE APES

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7 SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
8 THE ANIMAL
9 COOL DUDES
10 BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12
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4 BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
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6 PLANET OF THE APES
7 THE ANIMAL

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2 PLANET OF THE APES
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	STICKMEN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA/ BODY TO BODY
ODEON	PLANET OF THE APES
ODEON-2	TURN ON
ROBEN	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	COOL DUDES
QUEZON-1	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
REMAR	PLANET OF THE APES
REMAR-2	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	RADYO
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-7	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-12	SCREAM LAST FRIDAY THE 13TH
CINEMA-14	STICKMEN
CINEMA-15	COOL DUDES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
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CINEMA-3	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-4	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
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Runaway kills friend who gave him shelter

BY AGNES E. DONATO

POLICE are looking for an 18-year-old suspected drug addict who allegedly killed his classmate who had taken him in his house in Marikina after he ran away from home.

Jerome Tiamson, 18, of Saint Claire Subdivision in Barangay Concepcion Uno, Marikina, died from several stab wounds in the body on the way to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center, police said.

Tiamson's father Anthony, 50, is still confined in the same hospital for stab wounds in the right arm, police said.

Initial investigation showed that the Tiamsons were stabbed inside the young Tiamson's room about 10 p.m. Thursday.

Police said the suspect, known only as Jonathan, went to the Tiamson house earlier and told his classmate that he had run away from home.

The Tiamsons took pity on Jonathan and took him in, police said.

But the older Tiamson was later roused from sleep by noise coming from his son's room, police said.

He told police he thought his son and his classmate were only having a loud conversation and he entered the room to tell them to go to sleep. But he found his son bleeding from several stab wounds.

Jonathan turned on the older Tiamson and repeatedly stabbed him in the arm, police said.

Police said the suspect fled after the stabbing.

Bible-toting quartet . . .

(From page A19)

park it when the young suspect poked a knife at him.

The suspect took the driver's seat and was about to drive away when he bumped a passing taxicab, police said.

Salazar quickly arrested the suspect, who was later charged with car theft at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

But police were able to convince the suspect to identify his colleagues, which led to the arrest of the four other suspects about 12:45 a.m. yesterday on Agno Street in Banawe, Mandin said.

'Galunggong' downs . . .

(From page A19)

exhibited symptoms of food poisoning like extreme diarrhea, dizziness, vomiting and dehydration.

According to reports coming from the prison, the inmates had for lunch *galunggong* that was apparently laced with formalhyde.

At first, some of the inmates tried to ignore the symptoms but later, they started to vomit uncontrollably.

Valencia said the Muntinlupa City government also sent a medical unit to assist in treating the victims.

No deaths were reported and all affected inmates are under observation at the hospital.

Prison officials have yet to comment on the matter.

According to a source at the NBP, a food concessionaire prepares the meals of the inmates. That concessionaire became the subject of many complaints in the past allegedly for serving bad food to the inmates.

Senate hearing a circus

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I WAS present yesterday at the joint hearing of the Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs, and national defense and security and I can tell you those senators who were at the hearing anything but honorable.

They were bullies. They were oppressive. They were arrogant. They were grandstand players. Most of them, anyway.

The illustrious senators now dead probably turned in their graves yesterday. They would have been ashamed of the present members of the august body.

***

The members of those committees were like the inquisitors of the Spanish Inquisition. Instead of trying to ferret out the truth from the witnesses, the senators tried to discredit them right from the start of the hearing.

Because of their arrogance, the senators only succeeded in making heroes of Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; and Angelo Mawanay, a.k.a. Ador.

***Leges Serva Tae Pax Piat.* That's the motto of the Senate of the Philippines. I don't want to know the meaning of those Latin words. I only know one thing: they were throwing excrement at themselves.**

***

I used to admire my fellow Mindanaoan, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, until yesterday when he grilled Corpus. Pimentel, who was oppressed by Ferdinand Marcos during the martial law years, has himself become the oppressor.

He was scolding Corpus like a schoolchild. He thought that Corpus would cower in fear of his power, but he was wrong.

Corpus' mild manners only made Pimentel look, well, like a senator who is power-conscious.

***

Another big disappointment was Sen. Loren Legarda. At the impeachment hearing of Erap late last year and early this year, Loren was the darling of the public because she asked the most intelligent questions.

But, yesterday, she was bitchy and "witchy" in her questioning of Ador. That hearing was covered live by television and that, I think, ended her love affair with the public, TV being a cruel medium.

Why was she like that? Because Ador said during the hearing she bought from Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson smuggled cell phones worth P8.9 million. She became a tigress after that.

***

What made things worse for Loren was when she urged Ador detained indefinitely for making that revelation.

The once sweet Loren has become infected by some of her colleagues' arrogance-of-power disease.

Sayang ka, Loren! You should have kept your cool.

***

Loren Legarda brought out an incident where Colonel Corpus went to her office and informed her that she was being implicated in a scam—buying smuggled cell phones worth millions of pesos from then Chief Supt. Lacson, who was then head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

Corpus relayed to her the information in deference to her high office.

But at the Senate hearing, Legarda took offense and asked that Ador repeat his accusation. And Ador did.

***

Sen. Noli "Kabayan" de Castro, a neophyte, tried to get into the fray by bringing up an old accusation against him by Ador: that he received money from Lacson when he was a broadcaster for ABS-CBN (he still is).

That was a stupid move. Ador repeated his accusation and that went into the Senate records.

When Kabayan said that he, Korina Sanchez and Ted Failon didn't receive P3 million from Lacson, Ador said he never mentioned any amount.

Now, Senator Kabayan, how come you knew that P3 million changed hands when Ador said he never mentioned that amount before?

***

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was the worst grandstander at the Senate hearing yesterday.

He was talking down to Corpus, telling the latter that he was once a general in the Armed Forces. He talked and talked like he was injected with a phonograph needle.

The goat of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 1961 apparently wanted to show people his eloquence. He only obfuscated his viewers and listeners.

***

Ito namang si Sen. Robert Barbers, *humingi na ng patawad si* Corpus *sa kanyang* deputy chief of staff, Stephen Villaflor, *paulit-ulit niyang sinabing mali si* Corpus.

Ang kulit mo, Bay !

When a guy apologizes for his mistake, you should accept it and never mention the fault again.

Up to now, you still have the mentality of a policeman.

***

But the most arrogant of all was Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta. She is a disgrace to the Aquino family, prominent of whom is her brother Ninoy.

She became very personal, impugning Corpus' mental and psychological faculties.

Told by Corpus that he helped plant trees in a Visayan town, Aquino-Oreta, who became notorious for that sexual climax-like jig at the impeachment trial, butted in: "These are only rumors but I heard you were talking to the trees." She was trying to be funny. But it was uncalled for.

Corpus, apparently hurt by the insinuation, could only reply: "That's foul, Your Honor."

***

After observing the antics of the senators at the joint hearing, I've decided not to attend the hearing if and when I'm summoned to testify on my knowledge about Lacson's personal background.

I hate to be in a circus.

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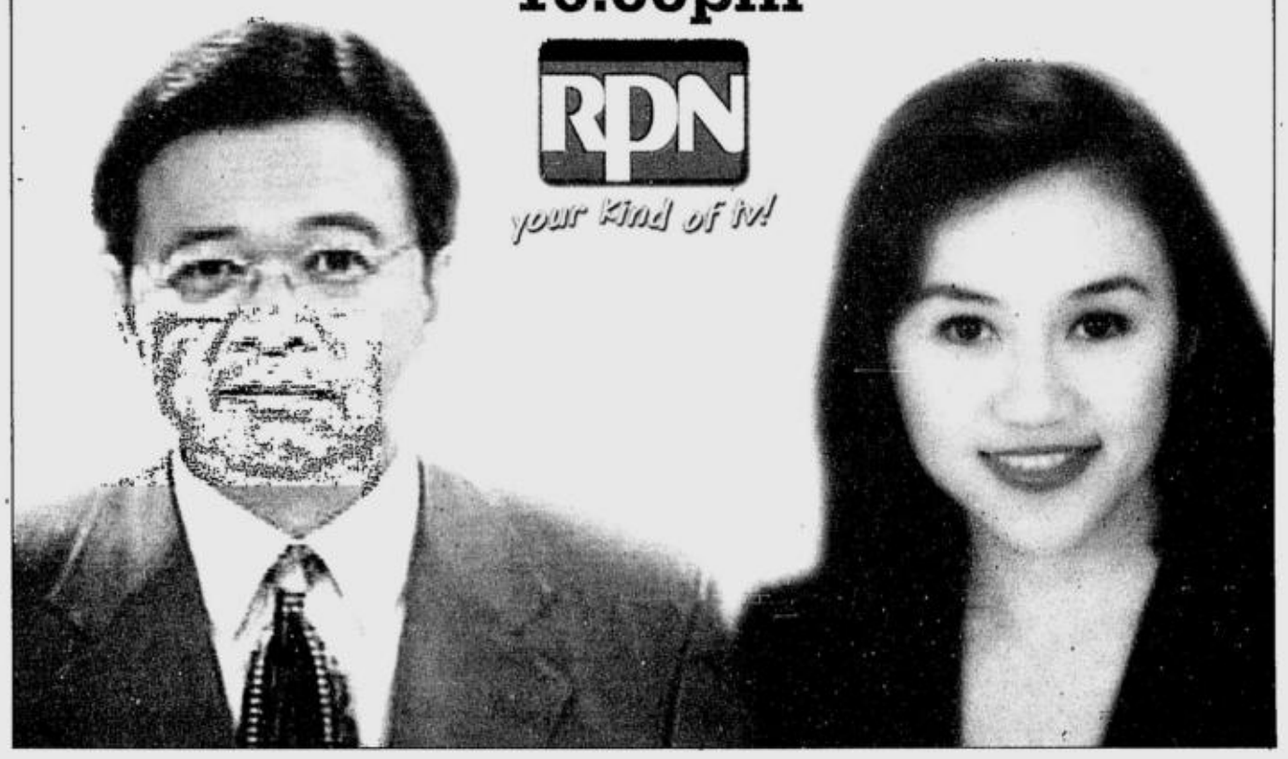

LOSE WEIGHT: Konjac, the formula that has helped countless European women

For all those (women and men) who wish to lose 8 lbs (or more) in one week

What is Konjac, the famous cure, which makes you feel attractive again even in the most hopeless case?

...This is what Dr. Hortz (Senior German Specialist in natural medicine) reveals:

"Those who say that they can let you lose weight with the help of some methods or medicine are liars.'

Please excuse me for being so outspoken. But I am shocked. I am shocked because during the past three years I have met more than two hundred persons with weight problem. And almost every time they said: "I don't know anymore what to do. I have tried everything, but nothing could make me lose my excessive pounds."

Do you know what most of these people answered when asked about they had tried? They responded: "Diet or medicines, or again various methods, pills..."

And do you know what these people have become today, the desperate ones who have been incapable of losing their overweight? All of them lost weight. Even the one case who had to reduce more than 50 lbs. was able to make it. And without any diet. Thanks to "Konjac Formula", the 100% natural cure.

Almost immediate results

"Konjac Formula" is a Japanese plant-based compound whose active substances aim at forcing your body to eliminate instead of accumulating body fat. This cure is so incredibly effective that you can lose up to 800 grams as early as after only 24 hours. Each week, you can lose at least-depending on the type of your case-4 kgs. (or 9 lbs.)

These active substances work in your body in the morning, in the afternoon and even at night while you sleep. You lose your weight automatically. The only thing you have to do is to use the formula before the two major daily meals.

You can go on eating as usual. There is no diet. No need to count the calories because every superfluous intake of calories will be automatically eliminated. Therefore, you will never feel hungry. Neither will you have the impression of depriving yourself of anything.

The water accumulation and the fat storage become progressively dissolved in every part of the body, including your hips, waist, thighs and other spots well-known for being uneasy to get thinner.

Even if you tried everything...

If you never really lost weight, this time you will. Even though you may think that you are a particular case, you still will. You will have difficulty in believing your eyes when you see that, day after day, week after week, the pointer tips the scales at lesser pounds.

Moreover, it does not matter if you have had overweight for 5 or 20 years. Neither is it important if you have to lose 10, 20, 50 lbs. or even more.

Now let's forget about secrets as well as miracle products and lose weight with guarantee...

Everybody who experienced this fast weight reducing cure has lost weight without putting on any pounds. Don't you think that if the cure worked with others (including the hopeless cases), it will also make you lose weight and remain permanently slender?

I repeat that, with this unique cure, you will be losing at least 8 lbs. each week, if you need to lose less than 22 lbs. And 10-12 lbs. weekly if you wish to lose more than 22 lbs., simply by ordering a test treatment as early as today.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO READ ANYTHING ELSE, READ AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING

The five principal advantages of the Konjac Formula:
1) 100% herbal-based
2) Rich in fiber with great water-absorbing capacity.
3) Satiating effect.
4) Limits uptake of lipids and carbohydrates and facilitates intestinal transit.
5) No therapeutic claims.

Let's imagine that your intake is 4,500 calories daily.

With Konjac Formula or "the fat burner", your body will consume merely 1,500 calories: you lose your weight automatically, without any change in your eating habits.

In order to provide you with the proof of the absolute efficiency of this weight reducing cure, you can test it without obligation. You will either lose your excessive pounds in a very rapid and easy way, or pay nothing.

What would be a better proof of the unconditional success of Dr. Hortz' cure than to tell you: "Receive the product, lose initially at least 8 lbs. without any special diet, and make your decision only after."

IMPORTANT: At present, our stock is still very limited. In order to be assured of the prompt service, please fill out and send us the test coupon this very day. Do it now while you are thinking about it.

"It's fantastic to be able to look at myself in the mirror and see how slender I am."

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3) No exercise, no massage
4) My absolutely free trial is guaranteed.

If I am not satisfied after taking a week treatment of my first bottle, I shall return to you whatever is left on my first bottle and the remaining unopened bottles within 30 days by registered mail. In this case, you will refund me the full value of the product upon reception of my returned package.
The above being understood, please send me within 15 days, discreetly packed, without any outside marking, the formula hereunder which I choose:

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614 ☐ I need to lose less than 20 pounds (.....lbs to be exact). I order a **single cure** at **P 1,295** + P 55 forwarding charges = P 1,350
616 ☐ I want to lose my 40 pounds or more (.....lbs to be exact). I order an **extended cure** at **P 2,895** + P 55 forwarding charges = P 2,950
617 ☐ I want to lose my excess pounds for good and order an **intensive cure** at **P 3,395** + P 55 forwarding charges = P 3,450

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Card No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Cardholder: _____ Signature: _____
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2. ☐ postal money order made out to MAIL SHOPPING INTERNATIONAL CORP.
3. ☐ I prefer to pay C.O.D. through the Phil. Postal Corp. upon receipt of my kit even if it costs me an additional P 60.
4. ☐ Whatever form of payment I choose, I wish to be served with absolute priority. I therefore tick this box and add P 50 to my above payment.

Family Name: _____ First Name: _____
Address: _____
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Tel. No.: _____ Birthdate: _____ Signature: _____

P.S. If you mail this coupon within 3 days, you will receive in addition an unusual (and pleasing) gift, free of charge. The "surprise" regalo will be inside the package, and you may keep it, no matter what.

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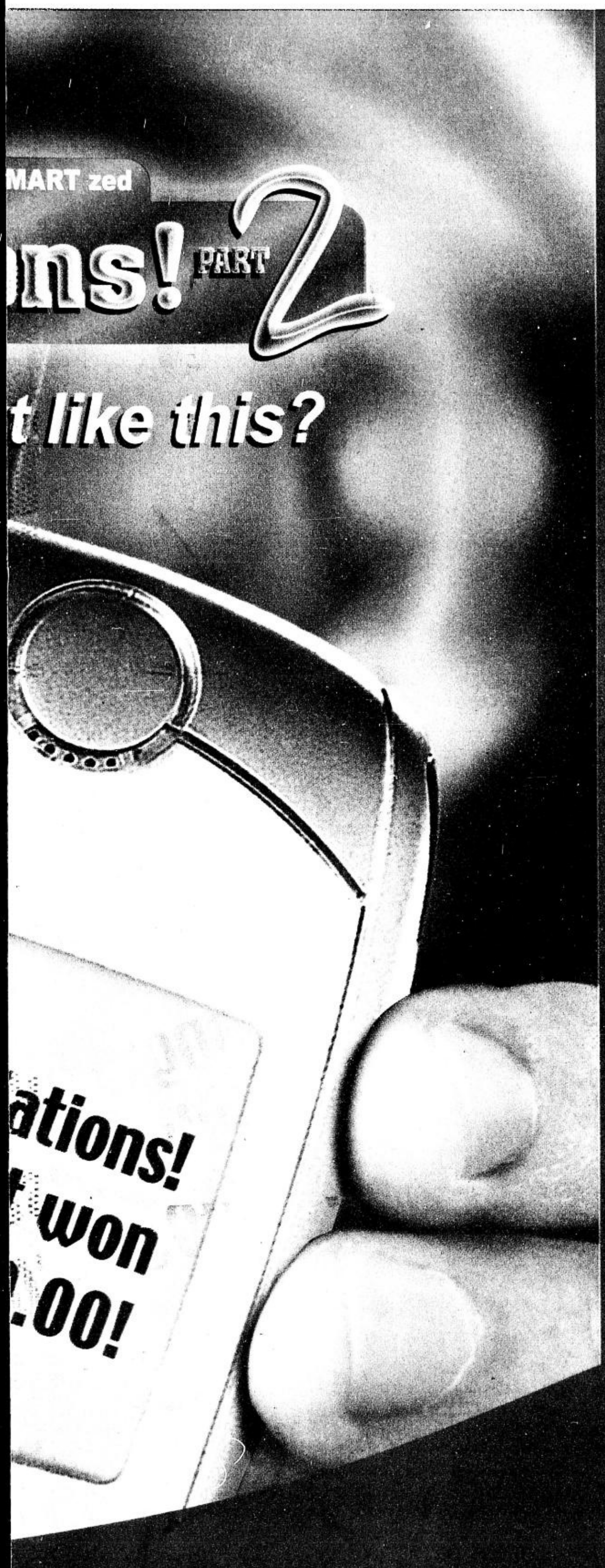

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Text to Milli,000,000ns! PART 2

Quiz Game

PROMO MECHANICS

WHAT IS THE PROMO ABOUT

Text to Milli,000,000ns Part 2 Quiz Game is a nationwide text-based quiz game for all SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text subscribers in SMART-covered areas. Promo period will be from August 20, 2001 to November 11, 2001.

HOW TO JOIN

Key in **QUIZ***space***JOIN***space*<**name**>/<**address**> | Send to **288**. | You will then receive this message.

The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry identification (ID). There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the game. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.

TO RECEIVE THE DAILY QUIZ QUESTIONS

The participant simply registers and s/he will automatically receive the first question the following day. Questions will be sent to all registered participants everyday between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This is free of charge.

In case a participant wishes to start playing even before s/he receives the first question or doesn't receive the question right away, s/he can pull the question by keying in **Q** *and sending it to* **288**. *This is free of charge.*

TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Key in **QUIZ***space***<question number>***space***<answer>** Example: **QUIZ 1 A** and send to **288**.

If the participant's answer is correct, s/he receives a message of confirmation. Example: "Your answer was correct! Please wait for the next question." The next question will follow after the confirmation has been sent.

If the participant's answer is incorrect, s/he receives a message informing him/her that the answer given was incorrect. Example: "The correct answer is <letter>. Please wait for the next question." The next question will follow after the confirmation has been sent.

The participant will be charged ₱2.50 for each answer s/he sends to 288. The participant shall not be charged for questions received.

It is important that participants strictly observe proper keying in of keywords and spaces in order to avoid syntax error.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES

3 correct answers = 3 points = 1 raffle entry

In order to qualify for the day's raffle, the participant should answer all three (3) questions correctly before 12 midnight on the same day the questions were received. A maximum of one (1) raffle entry can be made in one day. *In the event that the participant fails to complete all three (3) correct answers for the day, his/her points will be carried over to the next day or until s/he completes three (3) correct answers within that same week. Participants may accumulate as many raffle entries as they can for the period of the week.*

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES

Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**. The processing of points and raffle entries earned by each participant is done every 12 midnight, at the end of each day. The participant should check his/her standing before answering the first question for the day. *Rate for Quiz Entry is ₱2.50.*

TO QUIT

(In cases when a participant wishes to register his/her cellular phone number under a different name or opts to quit the game)

The participant keys in **QUIZ QUIT** and sends it to **288**. To register the number under a different name, the participant should just repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the weekly, monthly and grand draw under the new registered name. *Rate for Quiz Quit is ₱2.50.*

TO VIEW GAME RULES

Key in **QUIZ RULES** and send to **288**. *Rate for Quiz Rules is ₱2.50* regardless of how many reply messages the participant receives.

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME

Key in **HELP QUIZ** and send to **288**.

For more information, SMART and Talk 'N Text subscribers may call to make inquiries through *888 free of charge. Metro Manila subscribers may also inquire through SMART Customer Hotline number 888-1111 for free. For provincial subscribers they may call the local SMART Wireless Centers' for free. Local SMART Wireless Centers' telephone numbers are indicated in local flyers. They may also consult SMART's Customer Care Hotline through 888-1111 at regular NDD rates.

See flyers for complete mechanics.

Promo period, draw dates and prizes are as follows

WEEK	Period Covered	Draw Dates (MON)	Prizes
Week 1	August 20– August 26	August 27, 2001	₱50,000.00
Week 2	August 20– September 2	September 3, 2001	₱50,000.00
Week 3	August 20 – September 9	September 10, 2001	₱50,000.00
First Monthly Draw	August 20 – September 16	September 17, 2001	₱125,000.00
Week 4	August 20 – September 23	September 24, 2001	₱75,000.00
Week 5	August 20 – September 30	October 1, 2001	₱75,000.00
Week 6	August 20 – October 7	October 8, 2001	₱75,000.00
Second Monthly Draw	August 20 – October 14	October 15, 2001	₱200,000.00
Week 7	August 20 – October 21	October 22, 2001	₱100,000.00
Week 8	August 20 – October 28	October 29, 2001	₱100,000.00
Week 9	August 20 – November 4	November 5, 2001	₱100,000.00
Grand Draw	August 20 – November 11	November 12, 2001	₱2,000,000.00

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1279, Series of 2001

Taguig opposes transfer of Abu Sayyaf suspects to Bagong Diwa

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE TAGUIG municipal council yesterday issued a resolution opposing the transfer of the trial venue and incarceration of suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Group to Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig.

In the resolution unanimously passed by the council, the councilors said that leaders and residents of Taguig were never consulted on the planned transfer.

They said that there is also "no assurance either from the military authorities or from the national government that indeed Camp Bagong Diwa is safe and well-secured (to hold) said trial."

They added that, on the contrary, the municipality is facing "peace and order problems due to the transfer of the Manila City Jail to the said camp."

The councilors also noted in the resolution that if the ASG could slip through the dragnet set up by two battalions of soldiers in Basilan, "there is no guarantee that they would not free themselves from the confinement of a makeshift jail in Camp Bagong Diwa."

The councilors pointed out that Taguig is home to one of the biggest Muslim communities in Metro Manila. Even Muslim residents in the area, they said, strongly oppose the transfer.

They also expressed "serious concern" over the "adverse effect" the transfer may have not only on the security of Taguig residents but also on the municipality's business climate as well.

The councilors also suggested that the trial be transferred to the headquarters of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame.

Earlier, Cebu and Zamboanga city residents voiced their opposition to the transfer of the trial to their localities.

This week, the Supreme Court ordered the transfer of the trial and the detention of the ASG members from Cebu City to the headquarters of the PNP's National Capital Region Police Office in Camp Bagong Diwa.

Trader beaten up with toilet cover

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A BUSINESSMAN is now in a coma after an alleged male prostitute on Thursday beat him up and whacked him with a toilet seat cover in an apartelle in Quezon City.

Benito Lapidanio, 39, of 131 Barangay Baclaran, Cabuyao, Laguna, is comatose in a hospital while suspect Ernesto Vidal, 22, of Dr. Sixto Antonio Avenue, Rosario, Pasig City, is in jail, said police.

Investigation by the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit showed that the two quarreled when Lapidanio wanted to have another round of sex with Vidal who refused.

Police arrested Vidal.

Police said the beating happened about 2:45 p.m. on Thursday inside the Everflow Apartelle on 12th Avenue in Barangay Socorro, Quezon City.

The two men were said to have gotten to know each other through text messaging. Police said the two then agreed to meet in the apartelle on Thursday afternoon.

When Lapidiano wanted to have another round of sex, Vidal said he refused because he was already exhausted, according to police.

Vidal told police that they quarreled and then began throwing punches at each other.

But he overpowered Lapidiano and beat him to a pulp, police said. Then he went to the toilet, took the cover of the toilet seat and whacked Lapidiano with it, police said.

Indian killed by robbers

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A 23-YEAR-OLD Indian was shot dead in front of his stepmother even after he gave his money to robbers in Quezon City Thursday afternoon.

Serabjep Singh of Barangay Baesa, Novaliches, Quezon City, did not make it alive to the Novaliches General Hospital after three unidentified men shot him repeatedly in front of his stepmother Lilibeth Dubo, the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit reported yesterday.

The victim was shot in the face and leg. Police are still trying to determine the amount of money the suspects took from Singh.

Investigators said Singh, accompanied by Dubo, was driving his private jeep when the three men armed with handguns blocked their path at the corner of Quirino Highway and Neli Street in Barangay Gulod, Novaliches, about 1 p.m. Thursday.

One of the armed men approached Singh and demanded that he surrender his bag containing a still undetermined amount of money.

When he refused, the stranger shot him in the leg then grabbed his bag, police said.

To Dubo's horror, the armed men then shot Singh in the face before they fled on foot.

Dubo, assisted by bystanders, took her stepson to the hospital. But they were too late, police said.

Brothers slay neighbor

TWO BROTHERS on Thursday killed their neighbor for allegedly giving them a killer look during a drinking session in Caloocan City, police said.

Suspects "Banono" and "Liit" Morales took turns in stabbing carpenter Arnel Kabigue, 32, while they were drinking on Tabon Street about 4:30 a.m., investigator SPO1 Gaudencio Domingo said in his report.

The victim died before he could be brought to the Dr. Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, police said.

The Morales brothers and Kabigue were drinking just outside Kabigue's house when the brothers suddenly became angry, took a knife, and stabbed their drinking buddy, investigation showed.

Kabigue supposedly earned the ire of the drunken brothers for merely staring at them.

Members of the Caloocan Police Sub-Station 3 are still hunting the suspects.

Christian V. Esguerra

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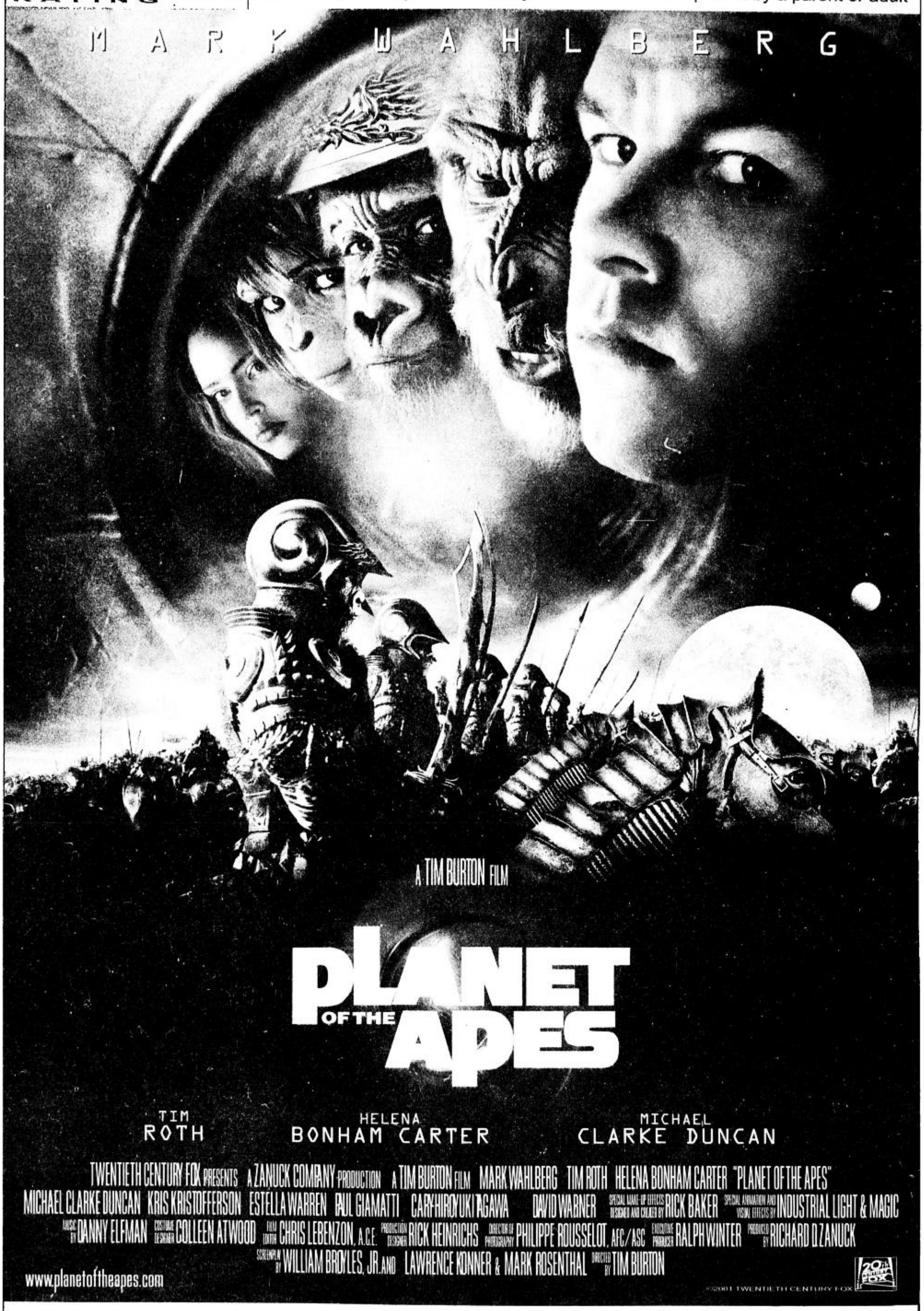

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Schneider, 'ANIMAL': Hayop sa katatawanan

Rob Schneider, lovable Filipino star of the comedy hit DEUCE BIGALOW MALE GIGOLO is back, funnier than ever in Columbia Pictures' THE ANIMAL.

As Marvin Mange, he has the strength of a lion, the agility of a chimpanzee and the affections of... a goat?

Thanks to a life-saving experimental surgery that fuses his body with animal parts, Marvin's dreams of becoming a cop like his dad come true. Armed with new bulging muscles and a keen sense of smell, he even becomes a police hero, as he saves a drowning boy and sniffs out drug smugglers at the airport.

But complications arise when he starts falling for Rianna (Colleen Haskell, *Survivor*), an animal shelter volunteer. Will he finally be able to control his beastly ways with the woman he loves?

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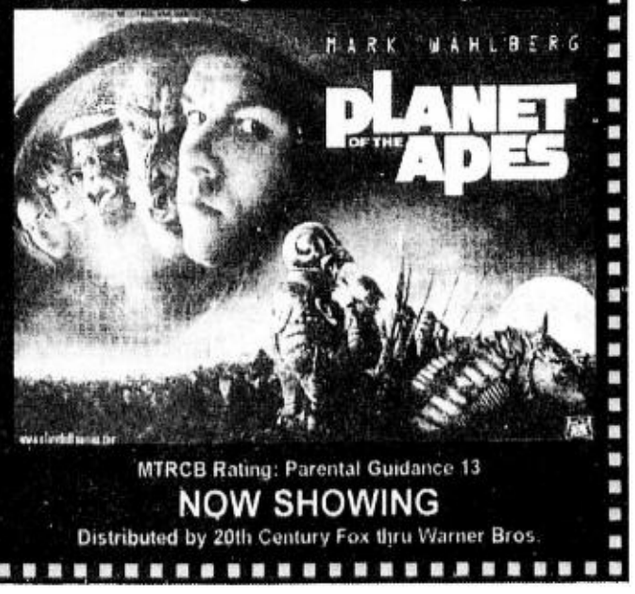

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

A man for all cities

BY JOVEN S. JOYA

AT 26, he became the country's youngest city mayor.

Fifteen years later at 41, he again booked a place in history when he did a David in this year's race for the presidency of the League of Cities of the Philippines.

Political observers still shake their heads in disbelief over how Tagaytay City Mayor Francis N. Tolentino slew a Goliath in Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay during the league's election of officers during its national convention held last July 20-21 at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

The final tally: 64 votes for Tolentino and 43 for Binay.

But the still boyish-looking Tolentino, who took over as OIC-mayor of Tagaytay from 1986 to 1988, would rather not talk about how he pulled off the victory over Binay. Instead, he's raring to talk about his vision for LCP and how he intends to take his city to the forefront of Philippine tourism.

The anchors of his LCP leadership, he says, will be good local governance and anti-poverty measures.

"We can serve our people best by promoting efficiency, accountability and innovations in local governance," he told his colleagues in his campaign material.

Intentions

Under his leadership, Tolentino, who scored a general average of 86.25 percent in the 1984 bar exams and who holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Philippine armed forces, says he intends to:

- Take positive steps in rationalizing the distribution of internal revenue allotment of local government units.
- Devise concrete measures to enable city mayors to effectively direct, supervise and oversee police units and forces.
- Promote authentic and meaningful autonomy through various proposals to amend the Local Government Code.
- Foster stronger relations with local, foreign and international non-government and government organizations through sister-city programs, institutional tie-ups, seminars and observations/immersion trips; and
- Support the President's call for morality in government.

To combat poverty, Tolentino is eager to continue improving the poverty-focused city development strategies (CDS) begun by his predecessor.

Pilots

Seven pilot cities—Dapitan, Dipolog, Lapu-lapu, Olongapo, Roxas, San Fernando and Sagay—already completed the first CDS program undertaken by Habitat and the World Bank on behalf of the league. As the project progressed, the national government offices — the Municipal Development Fund Office of the Department of Finance, the Housing and Urban Development Coordination Council, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government — joined the initiative.

The LCP will name another set of 10 participating CDS cities this year, according to Tolentino.

"We realize that most LGUs," says he, "do not have the personnel, finance, authority, management capabilities, and experience to fully carry their principal responsibility for action. They need support in building up their capacities to govern effectively in partnership with local civil society."

He says CDS is addressing the need to provide a vehicle to disseminate knowledge and innovations in urban governance that have proven to be effective both locally and abroad.

Reducing poverty

Reduction of urban poverty is the core goal of CDS, to be achieved, says Tolentino, "though follow-up investments to implement poverty action plans that each of the 10 chosen LGUs formulates as part of a three-stage process:

- By profiling the extent and impact of urban poverty within each LGU in a cross-sectoral, multi-institutional and participatory manner, the CDS profile will place poverty issues center stage in future LGU development decision-making.
- By bringing the key public, private and popular sector actors together to review those implications during a city consultation, a consensus on the priority areas for city development strategy interventions to ease poverty will be forged.
- By establishing working groups to address those priority areas, detailed action plans and demonstration projects will be developed cross-sectorally, mobilizing broad-based support for their implementation.

Priorities

It is a tough act balancing one's time as city mayor on one hand and as head of all of the city mayors in the country on the other. But to the youngish Tolentino, this is no problem.

"It's all a matter of setting your priorities right and putting in more hours of work as a public servant," he says.

No David

The 1984 Ateneo law graduate posted a 99 percent rating in criminal law and 96 percent in labor laws and taxation on the way to achieving an 86.25 percent general average in the 1984 Philippine bar exams. He attended the Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands, passed the multi-state bar exams in New York in 1990 as well as the New York State bar exams in 1991, and was admitted to the practice of law in New York.

He also found the time to attend the National Defense College of the Philippines, take his master's degree in national security administration (Regular Class 33), and was decorated as Army Officer of the Year (2000). He is currently attending the Command and General Staff College, Training and Doctrine Command in Fort Andres Bonifacio, Makati City.

TOLENTINO

Tagaytay City Mayor Francis N. Tolentino is no David, after all.

Businesswoman loses P200,000 to three robbers

A BUSINESSWOMAN lost P200,000 she had just withdrawn from a bank to three robbers in Mandaluyong City on Thursday afternoon.

Estrella Mercado, 41, of Sta. Cruz, Manila, told police the robbers appeared to have followed her from the bank.

Mercado said she had received a check for P200,000 from one of her clients and decided to cash it Thursday at a Metrobank branch in Makati City.

On her way home, she took a passenger bus and got off in front of the Polymedic Hospital on Edsa in Mandaluyong to visit a friend.

She said she was walking toward the hospital about 4 p.m. when three men emerged from behind her. One of the men pointed a knife at her neck while the two others announced a holdup, she said.

She said she took out the P100,000 she was keeping in the pockets of her pants and handed it over to the men. But one of the robbers forced her bag open and grabbed the rest of the money, she said.

Agnes E. Donato

Naked woman stuns churchgoers

CHURCHGOERS at the Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila were dumbfounded when a naked woman walked down the aisle while Mass was being celebrated early yesterday morning.

The woman, who went inside the church around 5:30 a.m., was described as between 18 and 22 years old, fair-skinned and smooth-faced. However, she seemed to be in a trance and could be mentally ill, according to the police.

One of the churchgoers quickly wrapped a jacket around the woman while others called for help from a nearby precinct of the Western Police District Station 3.

The woman was brought to the station and later turned over to the city's social welfare office.

Jerome Aning

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PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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Students urged to file ROTC complaints

BY JEROME ANING

A GROUP calling for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Corps program is urging students on the University of the Philippines-Manila campus to lodge complaints against ROTC officers who allegedly extorted money from them.

The school's publication, the Manila Collegian, reported in its Aug. 13 issue that ROTC officers extorted up to P13,000 from cadets in exchange for passing grades.

Abolish!, a coalition of militant youth and student groups calling for the abolition of the military training program, said it is convincing the three students—identified only as Michael, Joey and Peter for security reasons—to prepare affidavits and file them with the Department of National Defense's regional community defense group, which is in charge of the ROTC.

The students also divulged the existence of a mysterious ROTC unit called "Sentinel" where, they said, cadets who failed ROTC subjects could make up and be assured of passing, provided they paid fees and bought training accessories.

They said some cadets are being offered exemption from the ROTC in exchange for P9,000 to P13,000. They said the ROTC officials would make it appear that the cadets have health problems or have decided to join the so-called Student Intelligence Network (SIN).

Rey de Asis, College Editors Guild of the Philippines president and Abolish! co-convenor, said the ROTC is using SIN to monitor and harass anti-ROTC students.

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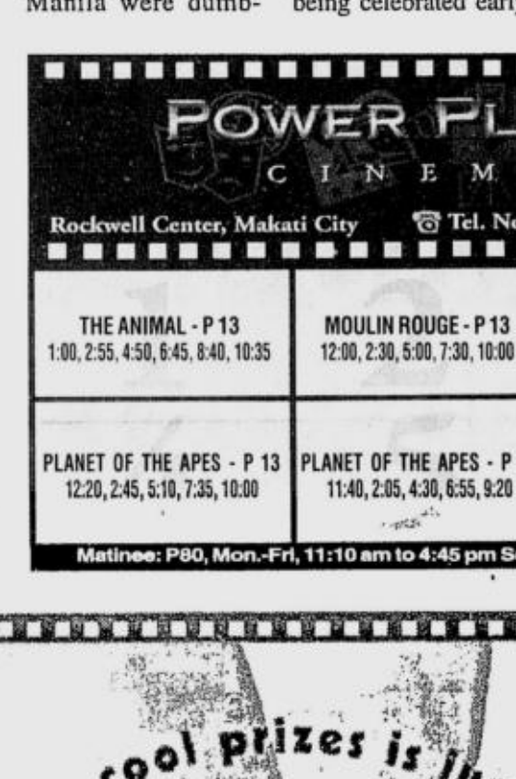

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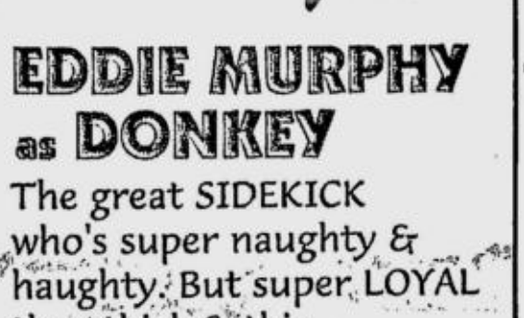

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Congress to probe $38B in outflows

SALCEDA

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

CONGRESS will dig deeper into the reported $33 billion to $38 billion capital outflow in the last two years to determine whether this massive flight of capital was due to rich individuals divesting their holdings or to the 'burgeoning drug trade' in the country.

This was revealed yesterday by Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda who said this staggering capital outflow was more than half the country's annual gross domestic product. He said the amount dwarfed the capital exodus during the Marcos era that accumulated in more than a decade.

Salceda based his estimate on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' balance of payments data that showed that outward investments by residents hit $18.192 billion in 1999 and $14.965 billion in 2000. Salceda also included the figures under the classification of errors and omission—$2.245 billion in 1999 and $3.015 billion in 2000. From 1992 to 1998, outward investments by residents averaged only $1.25 billion yearly.

Salceda said that these outward investments were on top of the capital outflow traced to multinational corporations and foreign portfolio fund managers.

"These funds could be from the taipans or wealthy individuals or they could also be part of the money laundering from drugs and kidnapping currently under investigation in the Senate," Salceda said.

"Such figures lend an aura of plausibility to the so-called Corpus exposes. It will be foolish to dismiss the so-called P350 billion annual drug trade as hallucinations but Congress could not afford to be reckless in our conclusions," Salceda said.

But more than establishing the root of the capital flight, Salceda said the Congressional inquiry was meant to draw up measures to pre-empt such capital flight. And if the funds will be traced to nefarious activities, Salceda said this abnormal level of financial activity should put more urgency in approving the anti-laundering law.

Salceda said the Committees on Oversight, Banks and Good Government would summon officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the monetary authorities' failure to alert political authorities on these 'irregular foreign exchange flows.'

Salceda said that while recent BOP data showed that the capital outflow appeared to have slowed down significantly to $7 million in the first five months of the year, it would take at least 10 years of continuous 5-percent GDP growth to recover such massive losses.

HSBC tapped for Napocor loan

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to tap HSBC Corp. to arrange a $200-million private placement for National Power Corp. The amount will be used to partially fund the power firm's financial needs for the rest of the year.

An INQUIRER source said the plan would be formalized in the next meeting of the Monetary Board, the highest policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral.

The loan will mature in five years and will be slapped a fixed interest rate that will be based on the London interbank overnight rate plus 431 basis points.

In a separate interview, Energy Secretary Perez said Napocor needed to raise between $530 million and $550 million to cover for its financing needs this year.

"There are more than a dozen offers for $200 million worth of borrowings, and we are still trying to get the best rate," Perez said in a press briefing.

Perez, who is also vice chair of Napocor, explained that the power firm could either borrow directly with a government guarantee or acquire the funding on-lend from the national government.

"But if Napocor itself borrows, it will cost us 30 to 35 basis points more, a premium that will not be there if the national government is the borrower," he added.

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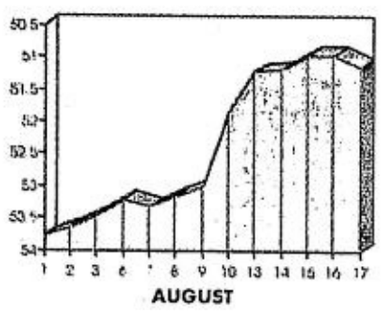

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

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The US dollar was trading at 120.54 as of 5 p.m., August 17, 2001

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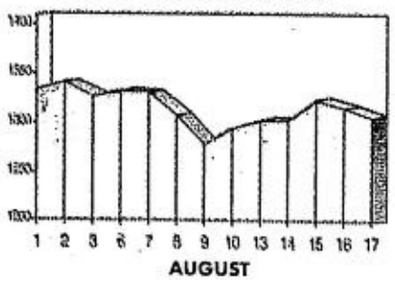


(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares down

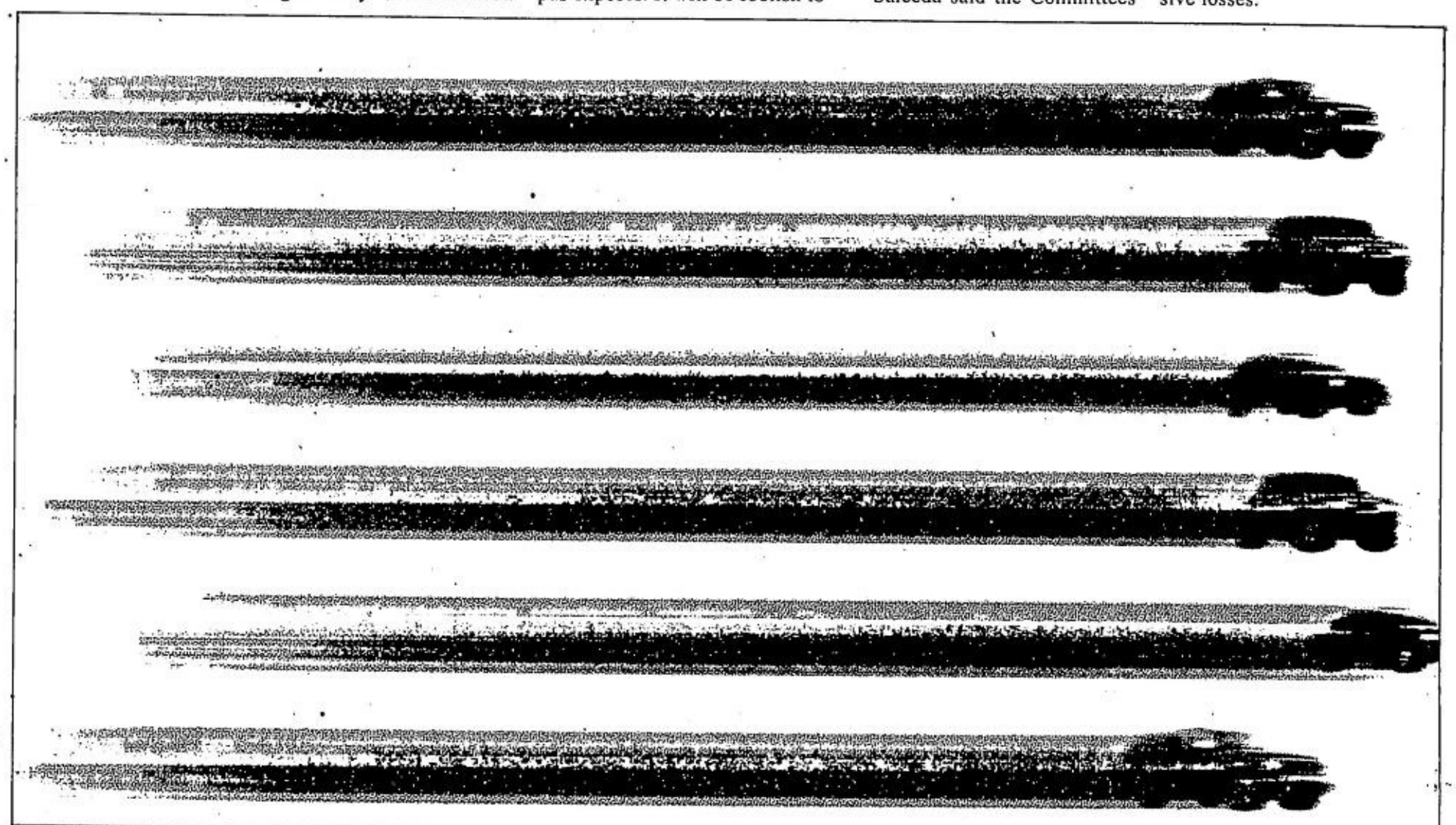
SHARES yesterday closed lower on foreign selling and the peso's continued weakness against the dollar, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 10.05 points, or 0.8 percent, at 1306.17, adding to Thursday's 0.7-percent loss.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said the market succumbed after the peso continued to depreciate against the dollar in morning trade.

The dollar reached a high of P51.35 early Friday, after closing at P50.95 Thursday.

A Senate hearing on allegations made by the military that Senator Panfilo Lacson—also the former police chief—has huge bank deposits stashed overseas took its toll on the stock market as well, said Roxas. The hearing was aired on local television while the market was open. *AP*



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US firm keen on RP banks' NPLs

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

LONE Star Asia Pacific Investments Ltd., a US-based private equity fund dedicated to investing in international mortgage- and real estate-related assets and companies, is in negotiations with Philippine banks for the possible acquisition of their bad loan portfolios.

Edward Gilbert, Lone Star managing director, said the fund was also working on the acquisition of two buildings in Metro Manila.

Lone Star transactions involving bad loan portfolios amount to a minimum of $30 million each. The company's property deals average at $10 million per transaction.

The company currently manages Lone Star Fund III L.P., a $2.25-billion sixth generation fund that primarily pursues investments in Asia. The fund has a balance of $400 million available for investment commitments and another facility is in the fund-raising process.

The investors in Lone Star Fund include corporate and public pension funds, university endowments, bank holding companies, family trusts and insurance companies.

"We see the administration is taking some long-term focused steps to make sure that the economy is able to recover. And so we, as a fund, decided to be more involved investing here. We have been in communication with developers here, with banks, and we're hopeful that in the near future we'll have some transactions to report," Gilbert added.

He said the fund would most probably close one NPL portfolio acquisition before yearend, and this would pave the way for the establishment of a Lone Star office in Manila.

"Anywhere we invest we also set up a service organization, which is designed specifically to manage the non-performing loans being purchased," Gilbert disclosed.

Typically, Lone Star's bad loan portfolios involve joint venture projects with the selling banks.

Gilbert said Lone Star was also keen to forge a deal involving a multibillion-peso housing loan portfolio of the government, which has suffered a high default rate.

Lone Star usually holds onto assets for a period of three to five years.

In Japan, Lone Star has closed over 120 transactions with more than 60 banks, other financial institutions and non-financial institutions totaling approximately $35 billion in face value.

With almost $1 billion already invested in non-performing loans in Korea, Lone Star is the leading purchaser of non-performing loans in that country.

Along with its partner, Bank Danomon in Indonesia, Lone Star has invested in over 100,000 loans and assets won in two separate auctions conducted by the Indonesian Banking Restructuring Agency.

Lone Star has at least 100 employees in each of these countries. Lone Star is also eyeing various transactions in Thailand, China and Taiwan aside from the Philippines.

In the private sector, Lone Star has completed more NPL joint venture transactions in Asia than any other investment group.

In banking, size doesn't always matter

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

RURAL banks are the smallest units in the banking system, but they have so far survived the highly competitive banking arena of the 1980s and the regional currency turmoil of the late 1990s.

As a new decade unfolds, the rural banking sector is also evolving and new innovative means, such as micro-financing and the Grameen Bank approach to lending, are being explored to cope with the highly competitive banking business.

What bigger financial institutions consider as high-risk sectors have kept rural banks thriving all these years, but they are also presenting new challenges each year.

"With most of our branches in the countryside, people are more comfortable dealing with rural banks instead of commercial banks in these areas," says Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines president Nicolas Lim.

But since most of their clients are small farmers, small to medium-scale agricultural firms, and cooperatives, rural banks are susceptible to forces that commercial banks are immune to. Adverse weather that may lead to a sharp reduction in harvest, for instance, can hamper the abilities of their clients to pay their debts. A prolonged dry spell known as El Niño, for instance, forced a lot of farmers to default on their debts to rural banks.

Lim says rural banks are also affected by fickle prices of agricultural goods in the world market. A prevailing slump in copra prices abroad may force several coconut farmers to declare bankruptcy, leading to more bad loans being booked by rural banks. The rural banking sector is hoping to keep its non-performing loan ratio at 16 to 17 percent.

"We are concerned with the unabated rice smuggling using backdoor entry points in the provinces and the recent drop in the prices of copra that has affected coconut farmers. It is only recently that copra prices have moved up to P8 per kilo, which will be more profitable, and we can hopefully increase our collections," Lim tells the INQUIRER.

Micro-financing

One of the innovative schemes being adopted by rural banks these days to lower their bad-loans ratio and prop up their deposit base is micro-financing.

Lim says micro-finance credit schemes have been very successful, with small entrepreneurs, such as *sari-sari* storeowners and vendors, forming a beeline to avail of loans from rural banks.

"Our micro-finance credit lines are actually competing against the 5-6 lenders because we have lower interest rates at a maximum of 2.5 percent, which we do not ask in advance," says Lim.

With their micro-finance credit schemes, rural banks are using the same tactics loan sharks employ but are undercutting them to put them out of business. Rural banks collect daily and their agents go directly to their clients. "(Clients) need not go to the bank because they are usually busy with their businesses. The success of our micro-finance schemes will actually prove that small borrowers are good payers," says Lim.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has recognized the micro-finance credit schemes of rural banks and has given its approval to the practice of extending loans without collateral.

"Before, BSP examiners were very strict with promissory notes and they used to identify them as unsound business practices, but now they have accepted them as reasonable," said Lim.

Still uphill

Despite the success of their micro-financing schemes, rural banks are still in for an uphill battle.

The central bank has been raising the capital requirements that banks must meet to force a consolidation in the local banking sector. Rural banks have become casualties of this policy.

The capital requirements imposed on rural banks depend on the type of towns they serve. Rural banks in fourth-class municipalities are required to put up some P3 million to 4 million in capital while those in first-class municipalities must have a capital base of at least P20 million.

Lim says because of the higher capital requirements, some weak banks have closed down over the last two years. The local rural bankers association now has 782 members, down from 800 in 1998.

"Member banks would rather close down than merge with another. There is so much amor propio among rural bankers, who have built their banks out of their retirement money," says Lim.

Still healthy

Lim says despite the challenges facing them, rural banks remain healthy, and that there is even room for more players in their arena, specially for thrift banks that may be forced to downgrade their licenses to cope with the central bank's tighter rules.

The Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines used to operate its own liquidity pool for members in need of cash assistance. The management of this liquidity pool, however, had been difficult, so the group decided to scrap it. The RBAP also shelved its plans to pool its resources to put up this year a P2.8-billion commercial bank that would have served as a "mother" bank with Dutch financial giant Rabo Bank as a potential strategic partner.

Lim said what the RBAP was now considering was a proposal from Land Bank of the Philippines to put up an "apex" bank. Under this proposal, Landbank would serve as a "second-tier entity" that would embrace the general interest of the rural banking system. The government financial institution offered to help rural banks acquire high-end banking services.

The RBAP is still studying this proposal, as some of its members are concerned over the fact that Landbank, being a GFI, is heavily influenced by politics.

Amendments

The RBAP is, meanwhile, working on convincing Congress to amend some laws that will make agricultural lands acceptable as collateral in line with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' mandate to earmark at least a quarter of the money they could lend for the agricultural sector.

"As mush as we want to increase our compliance with the agra component law of the agri-agra law, farm lands are not accepted as collateral by some banks because uncertainties over land ownership continue to erode the value of agricultural lands in the markets," says Lim.

Cases of land disputes have risen because of the government's land distribution programs. Agricultural lands foreclosed in the event of a loan default automatically falls under the jurisdiction of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

"A bank, though it's the landowner, could only abide by land ownership limits. It could not easily dispose of the land as it is only the government who determines the land value," Lim explains.

He points out that government-issued certificates of land ownership awarded under the agrarian reform program are non-transferable for at least 10 years except to the heir or again to the state.

Lim says due to these limitations, government-issued land instruments have no real market value and merely hinder investments in the agriculture sector.

As of September 2000, the Philippine banking sector's total loanable funds had reached P890 billion. About a quarter of this amount—around P222.4 billion—is required by law to be set aside for agrarian reform projects. Records show that banks have surpassed this compliance rate, with about P260 billion of their money lent for agriculture-related projects.

However, it should be noted that though the banks exceeded compliance with the 15-percent agricultural credit requirement, they failed to comply with the 10-percent agrarian reform requirement.

A related study done by the Agricultural Credit Policy Council on the viability of farm lands being accepted as collateral by banks showed that amending relevant laws would remove constraints on the marketability of government-issued land instruments.

"That is to make the ownership of CLOAs, emancipation patents and other government-issued land instruments transferable at a much earlier date rather than after 10 years," the ACPC study said. "There is also a need to fast-track the completion of the agrarian reform program."

Jollibee to open 50 more stores this year

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

AFTER hitting the 800-store mark this year, fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. is planning to open up to 50 more stores for its different brands this semester.

JFC VP for finance Miguel Jose Navarrete said that by next year, the company would start implementing its plan to go into overseas franchising. JFC is hoping to open at least 15 stores in every major market around the world.

The group's flagship Jollibee brand, a leader in the hamburger and chicken segment of the quick service restaurant industry, presently has a total of 393 local stores and 28 branches overseas. Its Chinese fast-food chain Chowking has 174 stores and its pizza-pasta chain Greenwich has 194. High-end French bakery Delifrance has 19 stores.

He said the expansion was part of the company's strategic positioning to achieve sustainable growth.

Some P1.6 billion has been allocated for the company's capital expenditures this year. The bulk of the amount will go to the flagship Jollibee brand.

The company is projecting a 20-percent growth in revenues and some 8 to 10-percent increase in profits for the full year. As of the first half of the year, net income growth stood at 6.6 percent.

"Income outlook should be better for the next two quarters because of the continued growth in sales and the easing of certain cost pressures," Navarrete said.

He said the recent strengthening of the local currency should bode well for the company, which has some dollar-denominated expenses including beef importation.

"Given our positive outlook on the currency and since our growth has not abated, we should see better margins in the second semester," he said.

For the first half of the year, JFC was able to open 50 new stores, including one in downtown San Francisco, Jollibee's 8th store in California.

Navarette also said JFC has yet to disburse the P850-million long-term credit facility recently secured from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to fund part of the construction of a new commissary.

Proceeds from the new loan will be used to augment internally generated funds earmarked for the P1.2-billion commissary to be put up in the Calabarzon (Calamba-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon) area. The new integrated manufacturing facility will be the 3rd for the flagship Jollibee brand and the 5th for the entire Jollibee group.

GOINGS-ON

Top Asian loan sale advisor to visit RP

ERNST & Young's Asia Pacific Financial Solutions (EY/APFS) division, the leading loan sale adviser in Asia, has disclosed plans to visit the Philippines for a series of talks with key officials of the government and government financial institutions, residential mortgage agencies and private banks to discuss ways to address the country's rising non-performing loans (NPLs).

EY/APFS consultants are experienced loan sale advisers to the governments of Japan, Korea, China and Thailand. In the United States, EY/APFS was the exclusive financial adviser to the National Government Mortgage Association as well as the lead adviser to the Resolution Trust Corp. that had more than $35 billion in NPLs.

The EY/APFS team to the Philippines will be led by its managing director Jack Rodman.

Asian Hospital offers medical benefits

ASIAN Hospital and Medical Center (AH&MC), an acute care tertiary medical facility, is extending a number of unique and attractive benefit packages to its shareholders.

Asian Hospital Inc. chair Evelyn Singson said the company's board has ratified different packages of medical benefits to the shareholders of record as of year-end 2001, in time for the AH&MC's opening in December.

The investment packages are extended to individuals, corporations and credentialed medical staff members. Initially, Asian Hospital accepted investments in minimum blocks of 1 million shares. This investment will now entice these investors to a 10-percent discount on hospital rooms, diagnostics and laboratory fees

Larger discounts are given to shareholders owning more than 5 million shares. These investor groups are extended a discount of 20 percent on diagnostic and laboratory fees.

DISCLOSURES

PETRON Corp. announced the resignation of Antonio T. Carpio as director effective immediately.

* * *

AYALA Corp. confirmed that some local and foreign groups have expressed interest in its subsidiary, **Philking Restaurants Development Corp.**, which owns the Burger King franchise in the Philippines. Discussions are still ongoing and no agreement has been forged.

* * *

PHILEX Mining Corp. announced the resignation of Vitaliano N. Nañagas II as director of the company.

* * *

ABRA Mining & Industrial Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Aug. 31 to Sept. 14 at 8 a.m. at its main office at Barangay Lipcann, Bangued, Abra.

* * *

ELECTED as directors of **Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.** were Fu Liang, Norma T. Azores, Emmanuel Pelaez Jr., Peter Go Pailian, Gwendolyn P. Feliciano, Chen Peng Jing, Li Hui, Vicente G. Gregorio, P.H. Yu, Francisco Acosta and Chiu Kwok Shing.

* * *

REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp. concluded the sale of all its shareholdings in **Republic-Asahi Glass Corp.** to **Asahi Glass Co. Ltd.** of Japan and all its shareholdings in **Republic-Asahi Realty Corp.** to **Casa Del Sol Corp.** last Aug. 15.

* * *

EXPRESS Holdings Inc. acquired additional 1,150,000 shares of **Universal Robina Corp.** at P4.80 per share.

* * *

METRO Pacific Corp. reported an unaudited consolidated operating income of P573 million for the first half of the year compared to P1.50 billion for the same period in 2000.

Compiled by Rey Leyesa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, August 17, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63.5	63	63	9,100
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	40
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	31.5	32.5	31.5	32.5	258,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	208	211	208	211	18,460
Philippine National Bank	50	52	50	52	1,252,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	243	243	243	243	240
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1460	1450	1460	1,020
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1200	1200	1190	1190	1,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36	36	36	36	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	1,180,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	640	640	80
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	10,230,000
Pilltel	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	565	570	550	550	94,750
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	36,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	33	33.5	32.5	32.5	63,800
Manila Electric Co. B	41.5	43.5	41.5	43.5	3,062,200
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.9	1.84	1.88	2,150,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.02	2.02	1.98	1.98	90,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	33,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	212,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	177,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	26	26	25.5	26	5,900
RFM Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.32	1,080,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	35,600
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	53.5	53.5	209,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	40,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	250,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1	1	0.98	1	260,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	4,000,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	1,453,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	220,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	1,000,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	60,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	1.98	1.98	1,542,000
Medco Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	550,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.69	170,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	140,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	160,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	270,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	570,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	440,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	1,732,700
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	4,700
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	510	510	510	510	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	50,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.013	194,800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	6,755,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	5,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	620,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.96	1.9	1.94	907,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	90,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	2,520,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	2,300,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	13,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.046	0.05	0.044	0.05	151,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	40,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	4,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	310,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,541,430	80,055,690.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	316,525,130	348,869,030.00
PRO	13,747,000	51,351,230.00
Mining	165,140,000	7,252,800.00
OIL	4,310,000	131,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	501,315,560	487,813,400.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	542.68	UP 5.62
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,830.68	DOWN 17.47
PRO	506.30	DOWN 9.38
Mining	1,285.38	UP 8.95
OIL	1.70	UP 0.01
All Shares Index	770.62	DOWN 2.02
Composite	1,306.17	DOWN 10.05

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 77; NO. OF TRADES: 1,551

CURRENCIES

Aug. 17, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.095530	1.000000	51.1010
Japan	Yen	0.009127	0.008331	0.4257
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583479	1.445400	73.8614
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140633	0.128370	6.5598
Switzerland	Franc	0.658055	0.600673	30.6950
Canada	Dollar	0.712679	0.650533	33.2429
Singapore	Dollar	0.627092	0.572410	29.2507
Australia	Dollar	0.576899	0.526593	26.9094
Bahrain	Dinar	2.906070	2.652661	135.5536
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.292142	0.266667	13.6270
Brunei	Dollar	0.626018	0.571429	29.2006
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000126	0.000115	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024552	0.022411	1.1452
UAE	Dirham	0.298347	0.272331	13.9164
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000785	0.0401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.912800	46.6450
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.466707	23.8492
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139155	7.1110
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.414211	21.1666
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066336	3.3898
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022628	1.1563
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000471	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153522	7.8451
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004553	0.2327
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005486	0.2803
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022628	1.1563
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.159017	59.2269

BIR blinks as actors, athletes buck tax hike

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue buckled yesterday under pressure from the entertainment industry and agreed to review a plan to double the withholding taxes slapped on entertainers and professional athletes.

"We have agreed to revisit the regulation, but only for the members of their industry who are earning below the threshold," BIR Commissioner Rene Banez said after meeting with representatives of the movie and television industry.

Banez said the government was strongly considering keeping its 10-percent withholding tax rule for entertainers and athletes earning between P120,000 and P180,000 a year.

Actors and professional basketball players earning about P1 million a month, however, would have to comply with the new regulation that would slap a 100-percent increase in the withholding taxes they pay.

A withholding tax deducted in advance from an individual is eventually subtracted from the final tax a taxpayer eventually remits to the government.

Banez stressed that the planned increase in the withholding taxes of entertainers and professional athletes would not mean that their final taxes would be raised.

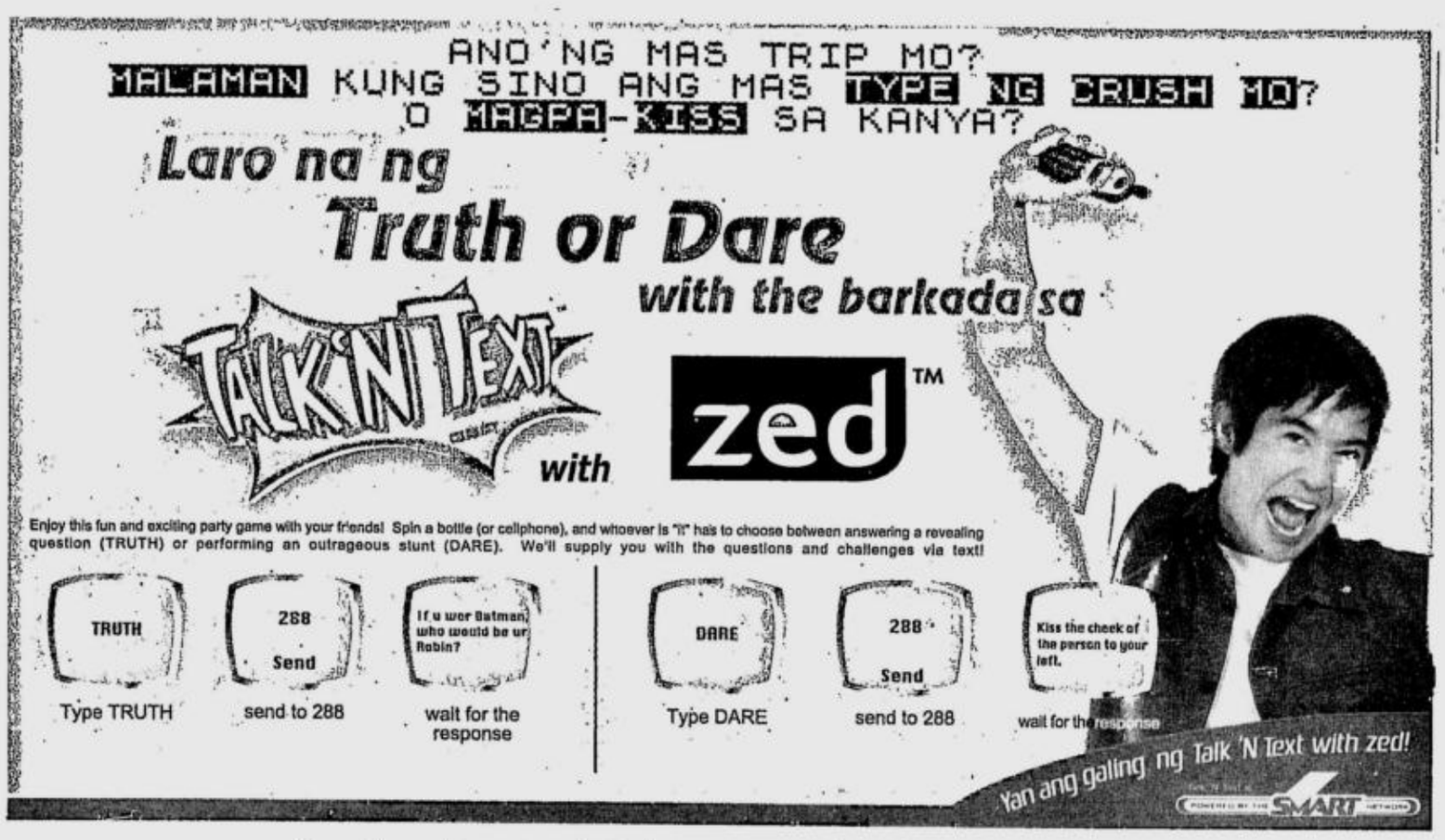
The BIR is set to increase next month the withholding tax imposed on entertainers and professional athletes from 10 to 20 percent of their salaries.

Reports reaching the bureau suggest that a number of actors and professional basketball players have been evading paying taxes or are not paying the right amount of taxes.

The new regulation covers actors, singers, television hosts, movie, television, stage, radio and musical directors, basketball players, pelotaris, and jockeys.

The amounts subject to the increase in withholding tax include not only fees but also per diems, allowances and any other form of income.

Representatives from the movie and television industry said the new tax rule would be oppressive considering most of those working in the industry were earning less than P140,000 a year.



Gov't studying use of natural gas as fuel

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

COMPANIES from Japan and Germany are offering technical assistance to the Philippines to promote the use of compressed natural gas to power public utility vehicles.

"Everything is still preliminary, but these firms are manufacturers of buses and trucks that run on compressed natural gas," Perez said in a news briefing yesterday.

He said the use of compressed natural gas as fuel was easiest to promote among companies operating fleets of vehicles.

"For instance, buses would be the easiest to convert because they can have their CNG refilling facilities right in their depots or terminals," he said.

Perez said the government could start introducing compressed natural gas in Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and Isabela province in northern Luzon.

These are areas where infrastructure for a natural gas distribution system are already in place. Natural gas from Malampaya off the coast of Palawan will be processed for use in Batangas, while the Philippine National Oil Co. is already operating a natural gas facility in Isabela.

"Compressed natural gas reservoirs and refilling stations can be put up in the terminals of these buses," Perez said.

He said Malaysia had been successful in promoting compressed natural gas as fuel for taxicabs.

The Philippines and Malaysia have agreed to pursue talks on a 1,000-kilometer pipeline that will channel natural gas from Sabah, Malaysia, to the Philippines.

The Sabah pipeline is part of a 10,000-kilometer network being built to link the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Perez said the PNOC, and Malaysia's Petroliam Nasional Berhad would study how natural gas from Sabah could be transported to either Bataan or Batangas through Palawan.

GMA moves to quicken Subic Bay-Clark tie-up

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Department of Trade and Industry, Bases Conversion Development Authority, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and Clark Development Corp. to hasten the development of a regional logistics hub hinged on the creation of a common resource pool for Subic Bay and Clark Field.

An agreement establishing the Subic-Clark Alliance Development Program has been forged among the DTI, BCDA, SBMA and CDC. The objective of the agreement is to align the long-term goals and objectives of the Subic and Clark special economic zones.

BCDA Chair Rogelio Singson said the alliance would enable Subic and Clark to synchronize efforts in developing a regional logistics hub that would result in the complementation and sharing of resources, infrastructure and facilities between the two zones, propelling economic growth in northern and central Luzon.

"Individually, Subic and Clark have substantial strengths and assets. There are, however, weaknesses that may hamper their future growth, so it is only logical to create a synergy between these two growth areas," Singson said.

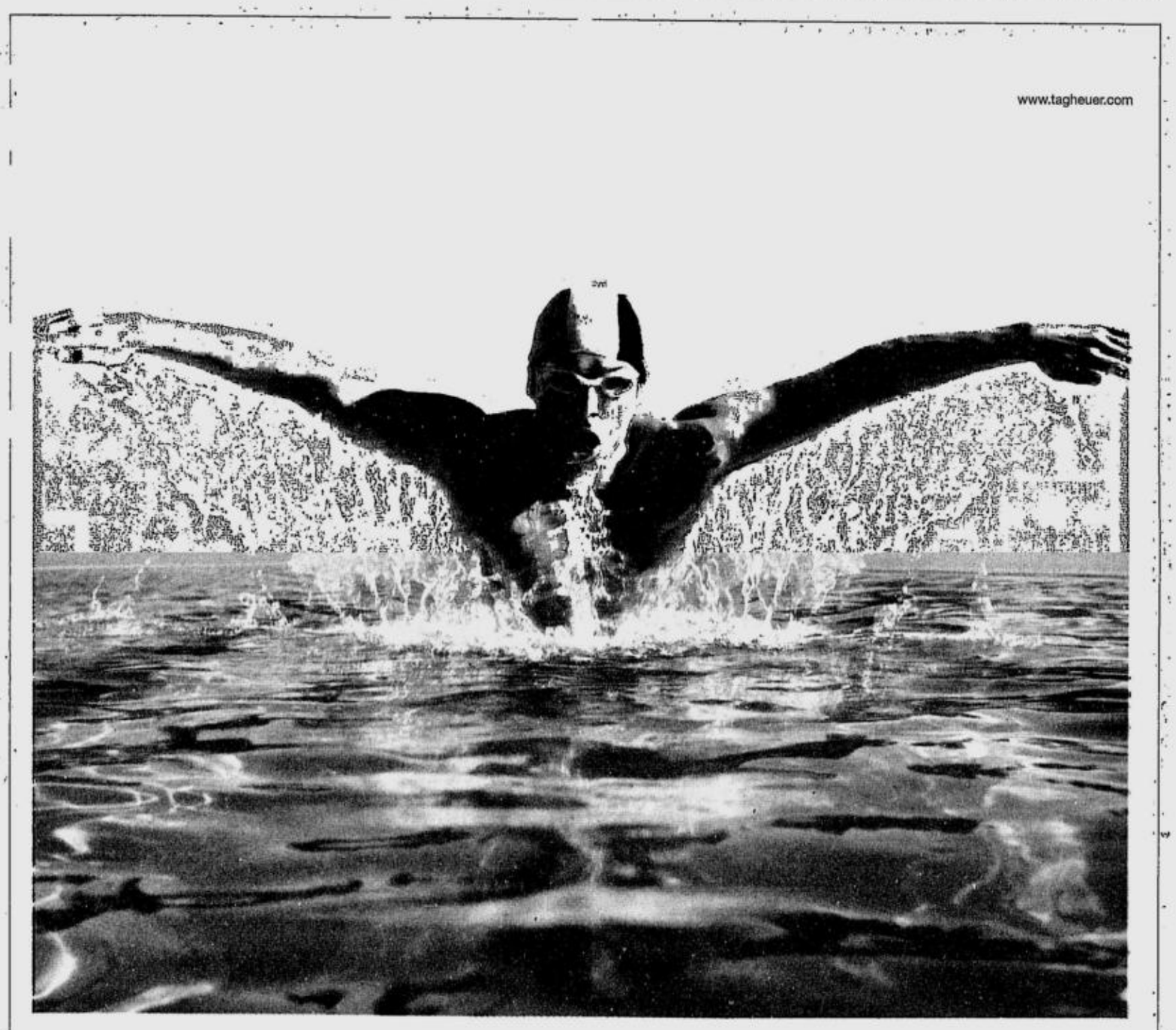
"The alliance program has the potential to create a mega-project with global appeal and can make the country competitive with our Asean neighbors," he said.

Clark promises to become a major international airport with its two runways capable of servicing next-generation aircraft. The deep-water port of Subic can conceivably compete with major Asian ports in Kaohsiung and Hong Kong but its limited flatlands will be a hindrance to its full development.

Singson said the SCAD program would provide a unique opportunity for Subic and Clark to combine their strengths and coordinate their investment promotion efforts in establishing a regional logistics hub offering world-class facilities for the manufacture, storage and movement of goods, data and services for international distribution

The Subic-Clark toll road project, which will soon be implemented, is the main component of the SCAD program. The project will involve the construction of the four-lane 89.3-kilometer Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway that will create the synergy between the two growth areas necessary for the SCAD program to reach global standards.

"The toll road is designed to integrate and provide a direct and efficient link between Clark and Subic and the rest of Central Luzon. The toll road will form part of an extensive road network that will link the northeastern and southeastern portions of central Luzon, It should significantly strengthen the alliance between the two ecozones translating into remarkable economic development opportunities for a lot of people," Singson said.



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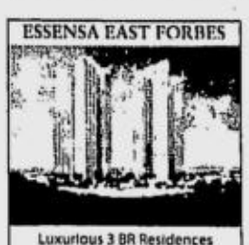

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(PDI-Aug. 11, 18 & 25, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of **ACR#3-04579671 & ICR#35836 of Mr. Kao Teng Ko.** If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 18 & 25, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
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This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
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BULLETIN OF VACANT REGULAR POSITIONS
(In compliance with RA 7041)

(1) **Secretary 1** — SG-7; Item No. OSEC-DECSB-SEC1-5-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; training and experience not required; Eligibility — CS Sub-professional; Preferably with knowledge in government accounting.

Terms of Reference: To provide efficient secretarial services to the unit concerned.

(1) **Clerk III** — SG-6; Item No. OSEC-DECSB-CK3-21-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; training and experience not required; Eligibility — CS Sub-professional; Preferably with knowledge in government accounting.

Terms of Reference: Responsible for the provision of clerical and typing service requirements of the unit.

(1) **Accounting Clerk II** — SG-6, Item No. OSEC-DECSB-AC2-8-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; training and experience not required; Eligibility — CS Sub-professional.

Terms of Reference: To assist in posting in the ledger in preparing financial statements; determine availability by funds and controls by expenditures; type/record financial transaction in the proper journals to take up into account allotments, disbursements, collections, deposits, bills, checks and adjustment.

Qualified applicants must send their resumé, transcript of records, recent ID picture and other credentials to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
DECS-EDPITAF
Dorm-D, DECS Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Deadline for submission of application is on ***August 24, 2001.***

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF BARBAZA (Antique), INC. and RURAL BANK OF MORONG (Rizal), INC.

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will conduct its final receiving of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Barbaza, Inc. (RBBI) and Rural Bank of Morong, Inc. (RBMI). Relative thereto, depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated on the table below, where PDIC representatives are stationed, to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries during office hours, Mondays to Fridays.

Duration of Payoff	Claims Processing Site	Name of Bank/ Banking Unit/Branch	Servicing Bank/Branch
Aug. 21 to Sept. 5, 2001	Rural Bank of Barbaza, Inc. Poblacion, Barbaza Antique	Rural Bank of Barbaza, Inc.	-
Aug. 21 to Sept. 11, 2001	Rural Bank of Morong, Inc. - Head Office T. Claudio cor. A.Natividad St. Morong, Rizal	Rural Bank of Morong, Inc. Head Office Tanay Branch	LBP-Tanay Br.
Aug. 21 to Sept. 11, 2001	Community Savings and Loan Association-Taytay Branch Rizal Avenue, Taytay Rizal	Rural Bank of Morong, Inc. Taytay Branch Cainta Branch	LBP-Taytay Br. LBP-Cainta Br.

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

1. Original evidence of deposit (i.e. savings passbook, certificate of time deposits, latest bank statement, unused check).
2. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's specimen signature.

Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of claims processing.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed RB Barbaza, Inc. and RB Morong, Inc. is on **September 5, 2001** and **September 11, 2001**, respectively. After these dates, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the closed RBBI and RBMI.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Aug. 18, 2001)

U.S. EMBASSY
PROPERTY DISPOSAL SALE

SEALED BID SALE of used US government-owned household and office furniture, appliances, office machines and gym equipment on an "As-Is-Where-Is" basis.

The property may be inspected at the disposal warehouse, Seafront Compound, US Embassy, F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (across Pasay City Hall) on August 20-22, 2001 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3:30 PM. Bids, accompanied by a cash deposit of at least 20% of the bid price, will be accepted during the inspection dates at the GSO Cashier located at Seafront Compound.

Please be advised that there is no vehicle access or parking available on Seafront Compound. Pedestrian access will be limited to F.B. Harrison gate only.

For particulars, please contact:

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INVITATION TO BID
GENCO 1 01-008 (PB)
DATE OF BIDDING — AUGUST 31, 2001

0106-066	40 drums, Ammonium Hydroxide (Ammonia Water) NH_4OH, Liquid Form, Technical Grade, Assay 23% Ammonia min., Packing 180 kgs/ drum (drum should be of polyethylene plastic material)
0107-006-TES	9 sets Hydraulic Operating Cylinder and 1 lot S/P for Installation of Hydraulic Operating Cylinder, S/P for Toshiba 230 KV Gas Circuit Breaker, Type GSR-200 PI
0108-020	74 pcs., Cartridge, for HP C1823A, tricolor, Inkjet Printer Cartridge, for HP Deskjet 890C, large, black, HP51645A, Bundy Clock Ribbon, two color, for Amano bundy clock, Model EX6200 and Ribbon, for LQ2170
0108-021	2 pcs., Fluid Coupling, twin disk fluid 12.4 HCM, Waldron 1 1/2 Flexalign
0108-033	30 pcs., Red Silicone Gasket, resistance to ozone and compression, for coal conduit used, temperature of 225°F, size 739.39 mm OD x 707.64 mm ID x 32 mm width
0108-034	1570 kgs., Welding Electrode, AWS A5.1 E7016, LB-26, 2.6 mm dia. & AWS A5.15 EniFe-Cl, NCI-10, 2.6 mm dia., Cutting Electrode, for rapid arc-cutting of all kinds of steel and Filler Rod, TGS 347, 2.4 mm x 1.0 m L, for stainless steel

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **August 20, 2001** and may be secured from Administration Division during working days from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM upon payment of P 25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P 50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price either in Cash, Manager's Check, Irrevocable LC, Bank Draf/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **E. S. DELOS REYES**
Manager
Administration Division

(PDI – Aug. 18, 2001)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
6th Floor DENR by the Bay Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Phils.
☎ 5219421*5219463*5226632*5227531*5227529*5227633
*5227528*5244189*5244203*5244205*5244184
Fax No. 5219466

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND SUBMIT PROPOSALS

The Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC) invites interested parties in the harvesting/extraction by way of sanitation cutting of all standing dead and diseased falcata trees to pre-qualify and submit proposals for the 8.47 hectare plantation area with an estimated total volume of 500.51 cubic meters located at Cayamcam, Tungawan, Zamboanga del Sur. Interested parties are required to submit the following requirements at the NRDC, 9/F 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila:

1. Certified copy of the Certificate of Registration of Business Name with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Certificate of Registration with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);
2. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws or Articles of Co-partnership;
3. List of Names of Current Stockholders/Partners and Directors of the Corporation/Partnership as certified by the Corporate and/or Board Secretary;
4. A valid Wood Processing Plant Permit and/or Log Dealer's Permit and Log Supply Agreement;
5. Duly notarized Board Resolution as duly certified by the Corporate Secretary authorizing the official representative(s) of the Company to transact business in behalf of the Company;
6. Duly Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years; and
7. List of subsidiaries and sister companies as duly notarized and certified by the Corporate Board Secretary.

Deadline for the submission of the above pre-qualification requirements shall be at the close of office hours on **August 28, 2001.**

Bidders shall be notified on the results of the pre-qualification evaluation after which they shall be provided with project prospectus on the technical details in the preparation of Technical and Financial Proposal including the indicative Plan. The project prospectus, rules on bidding procedures and other pertinent information shall be acquired by pre-qualified applicants upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable application fee.

(PDI – Aug. 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

MEMORANDUM

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification / eligibility and if later found eligible/ qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title	:	Renovation of the Project Development and Management Office (PDMO)
Scope of Work	:	Complete fit-out and furnishing of all materials, labor, tools and equipment, technical, supervision and other operations necessary for the construction and completion of the project all in accordance with the approved contract document drawings and specifications of the project.
Project Location	:	Room 204, five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Manila A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Approved Budget	:	Pesos One Million (P1,000,000.00)
Source of Funding	:	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)		
PCAB License Classification	:	IAC Category Small (Building)
Contractor's Construction Experience in Similar Project	:	Have completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) projects of similar Architectural works, each costing at least One Million Pesos preferably high end interior and architectural renovation or new construction works for commercial or institutional buildings requiring high end finishes and excellent workmanship on financial institutions, banks, hotels, commercial establishment & other of similar or greater complexity
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't.	:	Pesos One Hundred Thousand (P100,000.00)
Prequalification/Eligibility Statement Forms		
Cost of Forms	:	Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance	:	Aug 08 to 20, 2001 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility/Statement Documents	:	PBAC Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel No. 524-7011 loc 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission	:	August 27, 2001 4:00 PM
Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility		
Date and Time of Issuance	:	September 20, 2001 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance	:	PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Bid/Tender Documents	:	Shall be issued only to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance	:	Five Thousand Pesos per set (P5,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance	:	September 20 to 21, 2001 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference		
Date and Time	:	September 24, 2001 9:30 AM
Venue	:	BMD Conference Room/2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids		
Deadline/Venue of Submission	:	October 08, 2001 / 9:00 am to 10:00 am / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

BID OPENING WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Schedule for issuance of notice for eligibility/ineligibility up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1894 and its implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) Marcos J. Siongco Jr.
PBAC - Chairman

(PDI--Aug 6 & 18, 2001)

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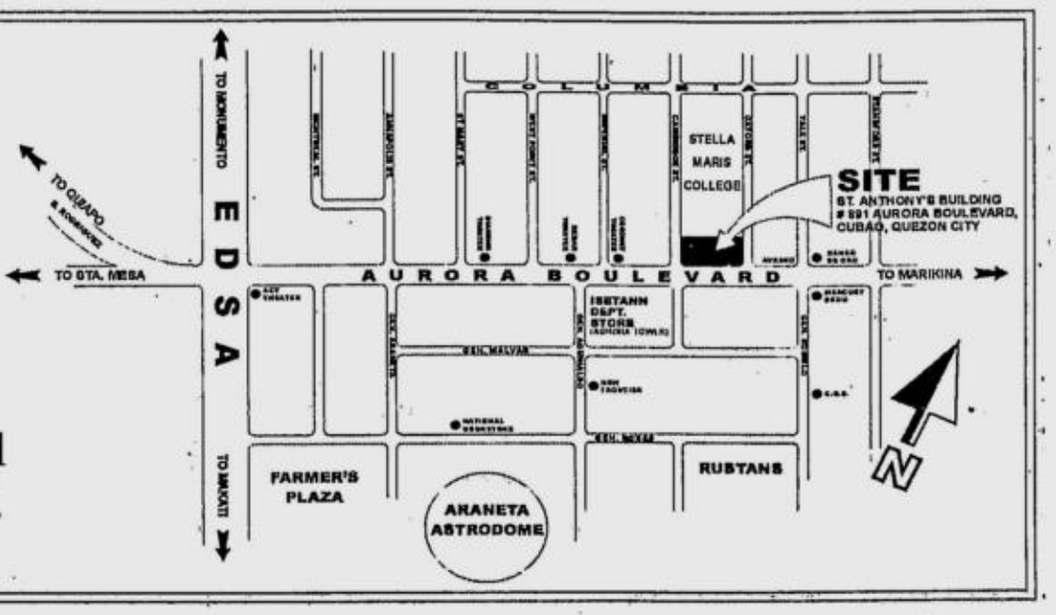

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Inay, you left us,
But you will be in our hearts forever...

SUSANA ABENOJA FLORES

Of Naguilian, La Union & Pasay City.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 15, 2001.

Her beloved husband **Peping** (†), daughters **Shirley & Pastor Bartido, Liwayway & Arturo Tabaranza, Rebecca & Isagani Lasala, Sonia & Herminio Rivera, Juliet & Montelibano Blanco,** sons **Rogelio & Celing** and **Pompeyo, Jr. & Daniela,** sisters grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her soul.

Her body lies in state at Florrisant Chapel, Rizal Funeral Homes, Cementina St. Pasay City and will be transferred at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on August 21, 2001.

Interment will be on August 22, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 8:00 A.M. mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, F.B. Harrison, Pasay City.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of the late

COL. JOSE REYES HONRADO
0-46537 INF (RET)

(26 November 1917 - 10 August 2001)

wish to convey their sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who shared their kindness and sympathy in their hour of bereavement.
Please remember his soul and all the departed ones in your prayers.

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

(Ret.) Judge Ernesto H. Octa

(IBP member, league of MTC Judges)

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 15, 2001 at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife **Bita,** loving children and in-laws **Baby, Bomboy, Desie** and **Cinderella,** grandchildren, brothers and sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and dear friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels Sucat, Parañaque City. Interment will be on Sunday, August 19, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the funeral Mass at 2:00 p.m.

"I am the way, the truth and the life..."
John 14:6

In Loving Memory of

ESPERANZA NAVARRA VDA. de MORATO

(18 December 1926 - 15 August 2001)

Now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace of Our Lord On the 15th day of August 2001 at the age of 74.

Her loving family - **Adolfo** (†), **Alice** (†) & **Erning, Elmer & Virgie, Alvin & Haydee, Edsel & Cris, Andre, Eric, Elaine & Ricky,** grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, relatives & friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence - (Morato Pili Sweets) Guinobatan, Albay.

Interment will be on Monday, 20 August 2001 at Guinobatan Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 pm Special Mass at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Guinobatan, Albay.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21

The Family of the late

LIM, SY LEE

who passed away on August 13, 2001 at the age of 77.

Wishes to inform relatives & friends that her body lies in state at Chapel A-3, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Her bereaved husband **Antonio Lim** (†) and children **Josefa, Pilar, Jaime & Sabina, Lito & Luz, George & Isabel, Cary & Cynthia, Lorenzo** and **Maria** (†) request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on August 18, 2001 at Ever Memorial Garden, Valenzuela City at 9:00 A.M.

In Loving Memory on the
First Death Anniversary of

URSULA "Mama Chols" CRUZ CALDITO

who joined her Creator on August 18, 2000

Masses will be offered today, August 18, 2001 at the following churches:

Three Kings Pro-Cathedral, Lingayen, Pangasinan
St. Paul of the Cross, Marikina City
Sta. Quiteria & St. Francis, Caloocan City
St. Joseph the Worker, Balintawak, Cal
Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman
St. John Berhamns Cathedral, Shreveport, LA
Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Syracuse, NY
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

Her family requests the pious reader, relatives and friends to remember her with prayers for the repose of her soul.

In Loving Memory
on the 10th Death Anniversary of

Maura Ledesma Ledesma

of San Jose, Antique
November 30, 1920 - August 18, 1991

Masses will be celebrated at the following churches on August 18, 2001:

San Jose Cathedral, San Jose, Antique	6:00 AM
San Nicolas de Tolentino Church, Dao, Antique	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Monserrat Church, Gran Plains Subdivision, Jaro, Iloilo City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, LJ Ledesma Village, Jaro, Iloilo City	6:00 PM
St. Clement's Church, La Paz, Iloilo City	6:00 AM
St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church, Caserio Mariposa, Las Piñas City	7:00 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish Church, BF Homes, Parañaque City	6:45 AM
Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph, Aurora Boulevard, Project 3, Quezon City	6:15 AM
Paroquia Santa Mae de Deus, Santa Maria, D.F., Brazil	6:00 AM

The family requests relatives, friends, and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

OSCAR R. CURA, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 16, 2001 at the age of 71.

His wife, **Elsie** & their children **Florence, Dorothy & Mart,** and his children and in-laws **Bong & Joji, Oscar Jr., Daniel & Connie, Grace & Chuck,** and **Paul & Estella,** his brother, **Bernardo** and his grandchildren request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Chapel D of the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati.

EDGAR PONCE ENRILE DEL VAL

August 30, 1937 - August 15, 2001

His wife **Jane;** children **Cathy, Patrick & Rusty, Angie & Ver, Agnes & Anthony, Francis & Karen,** and grandchildren, mother, brothers, sisters, in-laws, and relatives, request the pious readers to say prayers for the repose of his soul.

THE BODY LIES IN STATE IN LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS, GUADALUPE CHAPEL H. INTERMENT WILL BE AT LOYOLA CEMETERY, MARIKINA AT 11AM, MASS 8:00 AM AT LOYOLA CHAPELS GUADALUPE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2001.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - CARFU
Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project
Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City
Tele/Fax Nos. 444-7994, 444-8329
PO Box 1158
E-Mail: charm@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank in various currencies toward the cost of the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds including GOP funds to eligible payment under the contract for which this Invitation to Pre-Qualify and to Bid the following:
   a. Provision of Satellite Images and Services
2. Requirements for Pre-Qualification:
   a. Letter of Intent
   b. Detailed Profile of the Firm
   c. Business Permit/Clearances
   d. DTI Registration
   e. Latest Income Tax Return
   f. Latest Financial Statement
   g. VAT/Non-VAT Registration
3. Issuance of Guidelines for Pre-Qualification shall be on **August 27, 2001.**
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at the Project Support Office of CHARM Project, Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City at telephone numbers (074) 444-7994, (074) 444-8329 and SPCMAD, Room 302, Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City at telephone numbers (02) 927-9636 to 39.
5. Submission of Pre-Qualification papers should not be later than **5:00 PM** on **September 3, 2001** at CHARM PSO, Baguio City. Invitation to bid shall be issued to shortlisted firms on **September 17, 2001.**

   Bid documents will be available to pre-qualified or shortlisted firms on **September 19, 2001** and a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 21, 2001, 2:00 PM** at the CHARM PSO Conference Room and the Opening of Bids will be on **October 5, 2001, 2:00 PM** at CHARM PSO Conference Room.
6. Bidders bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of cash or cashier's/manager's check must be submitted together with the bid.
7. CHARM Project reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Project.

(Sgd.) **EDMUND J. SANA**
DA Assistant Secretary and SPBAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 18, 19 & 21, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Sogod
Province of Southern Leyte

Invitation to Submit Bids
ISB No. 05-018-0002

August 8, 2001

To: **All Eligible Contractors**

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
2. The Municipal Government of Sogod and its implementing partner, Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Repair/rehab of Three (3) Classrooms Bagong Lipunan Type School Building at Milagroso ES, Repair/rehab of Three (3) Classrooms Bagong Lipunan Type School Building at San Isidro ES & Repair/rehab of Three (3) Classrooms Marcos Type School Buildings at San Juan ES (Package 2), Sogod, Southern Leyte. Interested local contractors should be accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and must be least "Small Sub-Category B" Interested foreign contractors must submit evidence, in the English language to show that they are duly established and reputable contractors in their home country.
3. Bid documents may be purchased at the Municipality of Sogod with address at Sogod Poblacion, Southern Leyte, for a non-refundable fee of Php1,500.00 for each set on August 20, 2001. Pre-bid Conference shall be held at Sogod Municipal Hall Building on **September 17, 2001** at 10:00 A.M. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of two and one half (2.5%) percent of total bid price or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to Pre/Post qualification Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), Municipality of Sogod, Province of Southern Leyte on or before **October 4, 2001** at 10:00 A.M. at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **Hon. EDMUNDO R. VILLA, M.D.**
Chairperson
Pre/Post-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee
Municipality of Sogod, Southern Leyte

(PDI--Aug. 18, 2001)

INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

First roads

Q. Who made the first paved roads?

A. The first paved roads were actually processional pathways in the ancient Mesopotamia (now part of modern Iraq), paved with stone 4,000 years ago. They led to the great temples and festival sites in the cities of the Babylonians and Assyrians, and along them were carried idols of the gods of these early Mesopotamian civilizations. The Assyrians were the first to make road-building a business of the state. And rules of the road were strict. King Sennacherib, who ruled Assyria in the 7th century B.C., decreed that anyone putting up a building or parking a chariot alongside the processional way in his capital, Nineveh, should face death by impaling.

Name Game. *Nissan.* The well-known Japanese automotive manufacturer was originally a foundry, dating from 1910. It later became a motor parts firm and in 1931 absorbed Japan's first car company, DAT, the forerunner of Datsun. In 1934 it became the Nissan Motor Company, taking this name as a short form of Nihon Sangyo, from the Japanese *nihon,* 'Japan' and *sangyo,* 'industry.'

What's the Difference? **Petroleum / Oil / Gasoline.** *Petroleum* (or oil) is a thick, flammable, dark liquid. When it's a liquefied form of bitumen (asphalt or a similar substance), it's known as *mineral oil;* when formed by the decay and compacting, over millennia, of animal and vegetable remains, it's known as *crude oil.* Petroleum doesn't mix with water and is used for lubricating and combustion; crude oil can be distilled into kerosene, benzene, paraffin, and other substances. Chief among these is *gasoline,* a flammable liquid used as fuel for internal-combustion engines.

WORD WATCH

Tsuper : from the Spanish *chofer,* 'chauffeur.'

PDI – Aug. 18, 2001

What do you get from running?

IT is inspiring to see runners on the road early in the morning. As the first light of day breaks, a runner at the end of a good run gets the feeling the day has started right. But did you know that aside from that great feeling, running has other significant benefits?

Some people run to lose weight. Running tones the body as it triggers loss of body fat and a proportional increase in lean tissue. A person who runs a mile burns an average of 100 calories. So if you are thinking of getting rid of those fat deposits, get into running and you'll feel the difference.

Other people are motivated to run because of the other health benefits. Running lowers blood pressure by maintaining the elasticity of the arteries. A person's arteries expand and contract more than usual when running; thus it helps lower blood pressure. For smokers and those who are prone to asthma attacks, running is good for strengthening weak lungs. It also strengthens the heart and helps prevent heart attacks. Many runners attest that after a run, they get energized for the day. Others see improvements in their sleeping and eating habits.

Regular runners also feel exhilarated after a run. This high is brought about by the release of beta-endorphin by the neurons in the nervous system. That is why runners have an "I feel good" aura.

Studies also show that there are psychological benefits to running. In fact, it is a part of the cure for clinical and psychological disorders. Running has become a component of treatment for clinically depressed patients. It helps patients feel less tense, less confused and less fatigued. Research reveals that running likewise benefits alcoholics and other substance abusers.

Running is a very accessible activity that almost anybody—young or old—can try. It is also inexpensive. Just a pair of good running shoes and comfortable running clothes, and you're on your way to a more healthy lifestyle.

What you should know before running

Now that you're on to the benefits of running, are you ready for your first run? Before doing so, read on and keep these useful tips in mind.

First, you must remember to choose lightweight, comfortable and light-colored running attire. Clothes made of cotton are the best to wear because they are good for absorbing sweat.

Comfortable shoes are a must. Well-fitting, flexible running shoes with a finger clearance from the tip of the shoes should be broken in during short runs and training. Ill-fitting shoes can damage your feet, including toenails. Never run without socks, unless you are accustomed to doing so.

If you are over 30, a smoker and/or drinker, or if you have a family history of heart-related problems, it is advisable to visit your cardiologist first to check if you can start running.

If you are a beginner, you should try to run comfortably for about 30 minutes three times a week, with a day or two of recovery in between. When running, your body must be erect and relaxed, with arms bent about 90 degrees at the elbow swinging naturally forward and backward on the sides, with hands naturally cupped. Your legs should swing naturally forward and backward, with a heel-ball planting of the feet. Don't "sit" while running but rather "run tall."

You must also look out for symptoms of dehydration and heat stroke. If you feel dizziness, a cold and clammy feeling, goose pimples and headache, you should stop and seek medical help.

You may want to drink water after every 20 minutes of running. It is also good to douse yourself with water, especially in hot weather.

Pace yourself well. Don't run too fast at the start only to lose steam and be forced to stop before you intended to. It is better to run a comfortable pace. Then gradually adjust your speed, frequency and duration according to how your body adopts to running.

Lastly, keep in mind your safety on the road. Be aware of road hazards and always look out for vehicles that may hit you. Be a considerate runner. Give way to those who want to get ahead of you.

Run in the Milo Marathon

Now that you have the goods on running, why not join a fun event that draws lots of other runners, namely the Milo Marathon? The country's premiere running event aims to promote running as a worthwhile, inexpensive activity. Thousands of runners join the Milo Marathon every year. This eagerly awaited event features race categories for all ages: the 3-kilometer kiddie run, 5-km fun run, 10-km race and the 42-km full marathon. Held in key cities nationwide, the Milo Marathon is capped by a national final in which top male and female runners compete for the grand championship.

The Milo Marathon marks another milestone as it celebrates its 25th year. The June kick-off in Metro Manila of the country's most popular run drew some 6,000 participants. Celebrities who led the crowd include Shaina Magdayao, Ann Curtis, Goyong, Lana Azanin, Jake Roxas and Onemig Bondoc. Thousands of spectators, including executives and dignitaries, joined the festivities.

The Milo Marathon already held its elimination leg in Davao, Naga City and Tacloban City. Elimination legs will also be held in Olongapo City, Bacolod City, Tuguegarao City, General Santos, Batangas City, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio City and Cebu City. The national finals will take place in Metro Manila in December.

In search of Agapito Flores

(First of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE MYTH that Agapito Flores invented the fluorescent lamp continues to linger in the Filipino psyche. I have written extensively on this issue before (Dec. 30, 2000 and April 7, 2001), yet it seems that some of us (including the people behind a popular game show) still tend to accept pseudo-scientific ideas without rigorous evidence.

What's worse, some science educators themselves seem to accept this myth as fact. Karina Bolasco, head of Anvil Publishing, informed me that during a recent meeting with government, public school and private school educators, some still believed that Flores was the inventor. No wonder the Philippines languishes at the bottom in science surveys—we can't even get our facts straight with regard to our own scientists.

A reader, R. A. Consolacion (rconsolacion@edsamail.com.ph), also questioned the veracity of my past articles on Flores. Here are excerpts from his letter:

"I cannot understand your courage in putting down so quick(ly) Agapito Flores as just a myth, after just consulting some school textbooks or encyclopedias.

"Yes, you are correct my friend, I read Flores when I was still a youngster in school. My school textbook introduced him to me in just one sentence, that is, (it) describ(ed) his name and his invention. However, later on, a writer featured Flores in one publication, describing his simple life and qualifications, recollections of his neighbors, pictures of the place where he used to live and work as (an) electrician. That was the time when I saluted Flores as an inventor. I (did not think) the writer created all those...information (on Flores), (his) neighbors and (his) place to fool...readers like me. After some more years, another article on Flores was published. It mentioned the influential person who arranged his demo meeting with Quezon, the amount of money paid to him by GE, the year he became an English citizen and the year he died in England. I remember that it even included how many years GE was protected by its fluorescent patent (was it for 20 years?). My friend, those old journalistic works which I read and the sources of my information were not myth because those were the times when articles were properly verified before printing so that journalists can educate the reader, not misinform...them."

[Mr. Consolacion also questions Dr. Benito Vergara's research capacities and brings up the issue of the lunar rover, which will be addressed in a future column.]

Thank you for your letter, but it was not courage that prompted me to question the Flores myth—it was simply the need for validation, a part of basic scientific procedure. As for Dr. Vergara, he is an Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology, the highest science policymaking body in the Philippines. Academicians have proven their integrity and capability in science fields. As you can see, my sources are not journalists or textbook writers.

Now I invite Dr. Vergara to discuss Flores once and for all. Vergara has been involved in showcasing Filipino scientific achievements in the Philippine Science Heritage Center (PSHC) at the DOST compound in Bicutan, Taguig. He had wanted to include Flores in the PSHC but could not find evidence to do so.

In the following essay, Vergara describes his search for Flores and his lamp:

When I first read in a Sunday magazine several years back about Flores discovering the fluorescent bulb, I was so proud. Here was a Filipino who was able to use the principle of luminescence as the fireflies do! We must include his name in the roster of Filipino greats. The distinction of discovering the fluorescent bulb had been accredited to Flores by many writers and reporters. Three years ago, the NAST wanted to include his discovery in the PSHC, and so the search for Flores began.

Our search started with various encyclopedias as any decent researcher would do. We did this essentially to understand the phenomenon and possibly see Flores' name buried in the history of the fluorescent bulb. Reputable sites in the Internet were also scanned.

(To be continued next week)

(Queena N. Lee-Chua, Ph.D. is an associate professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. She also writes the column "Mind Games" for www.inq7.net every Wednesday. She can be contacted at the Ateneo Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, or at blessbook@yahoo.com.)

UST Hospital celebrates lung month

AS part of the Lung Month celebration, the UST Hospital Lung Institute is holding an antismoking exhibit titled "Be Smart Don't Ever Start!" until Sept. 7 at the main lobby and mezzanine of the private division hospital.

The exhibit is a hands-on interactive display developed by the Museo Pambata detailing the hazards of smoking. It features more than 20 stations, including 3 computer units with antismoking software games designed to interest both children and adults. The exhibit is free of charge and will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except on Sundays.

The Lung Institute was relaunched with its new name—Center for Respiratory Medicine—when the exhibit opened Monday. The center's new logo was unveiled during the affair by the newly appointed Chief of Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care, Dr. Marilyn-Ong Mateo, together with Dr. Ivan Villespin, the center's new director.

The new name and logo reflects the vast array of services it now offers with its state-of-the-art equipment and competent complement of physicians including foreign-trained subspecialists. On top of its diagnostic laboratory, the center has established various specialty clinics to cater to special needs of patients.

Interventional Pulmonology offers laser resection of endobronchial tumors and stenting of compressed airways. The Sleep and Snore Diagnostic Unit allows accurate diagnosis of sleep-disordered breathing.

The center also boasts of its successful Smoking Cessation Clinic that provides nicotine-dependence treatment program that combines behavioral and pharmacologic intervention in motivating smokers to quit. Other specialty clinics of the center are the pulmonary rehabilitation unit, the Sto. Tomas Obstructive Airways Program (STOP) and pulmonary vascular service.

Genes and lactose intolerance

ABOUT 70 percent of the world's population simply cannot drink milk or eat dairy products (except yogurt) without getting an upset stomach.

Lactose intolerance is genetic and occurs most often in people of Asian, African and Mediterranean descent. It is estimated that up to 50 percent of Filipinos are lactose intolerant. This condition is caused by a deficiency in lactase, an enzyme needed to absorb and digest the milk sugar, lactose. Undigested, the milk sugar lingers in the colon and ferments, creating intestinal distress—abdominal pain, bloating, gas and diarrhea—that sometimes defies diagnosis.

Lactose intolerance is not a disease. Rather, it is a condition stemming from a number of factors. It can be congenital (one is born lactose intolerant) or acquired (one becomes lactose intolerant later in life). Congenital lactose intolerance is extremely rare.

Primary acquired lactose intolerance is genetic and is by far the most common type of lactose intolerance. Secondary acquired lactose intolerance can be the result of disease or certain drug treatments.

Fortunately, lactose intolerance is relatively easy to manage. No treatment exists to improve the body's ability to produce lactase, but symptoms can be controlled through diet. The simplest way to prevent symptoms of lactose intolerance is to avoid foods that contain lactose altogether—young children with lactase deficiency should not eat any food containing lactose. For children up to 2 years old, Mead Johnson offers lactose-free milk formulas that contain all the other nutrients of regular milk. These formulations contain glucose polymers for easier digestion, and all the vitamins and minerals of regular formulas plus DHA, an important brain-building ingredient. Mead Johnson's Lactose-free line is the only complete line of formulas that help support brain development the tummy-friendly way

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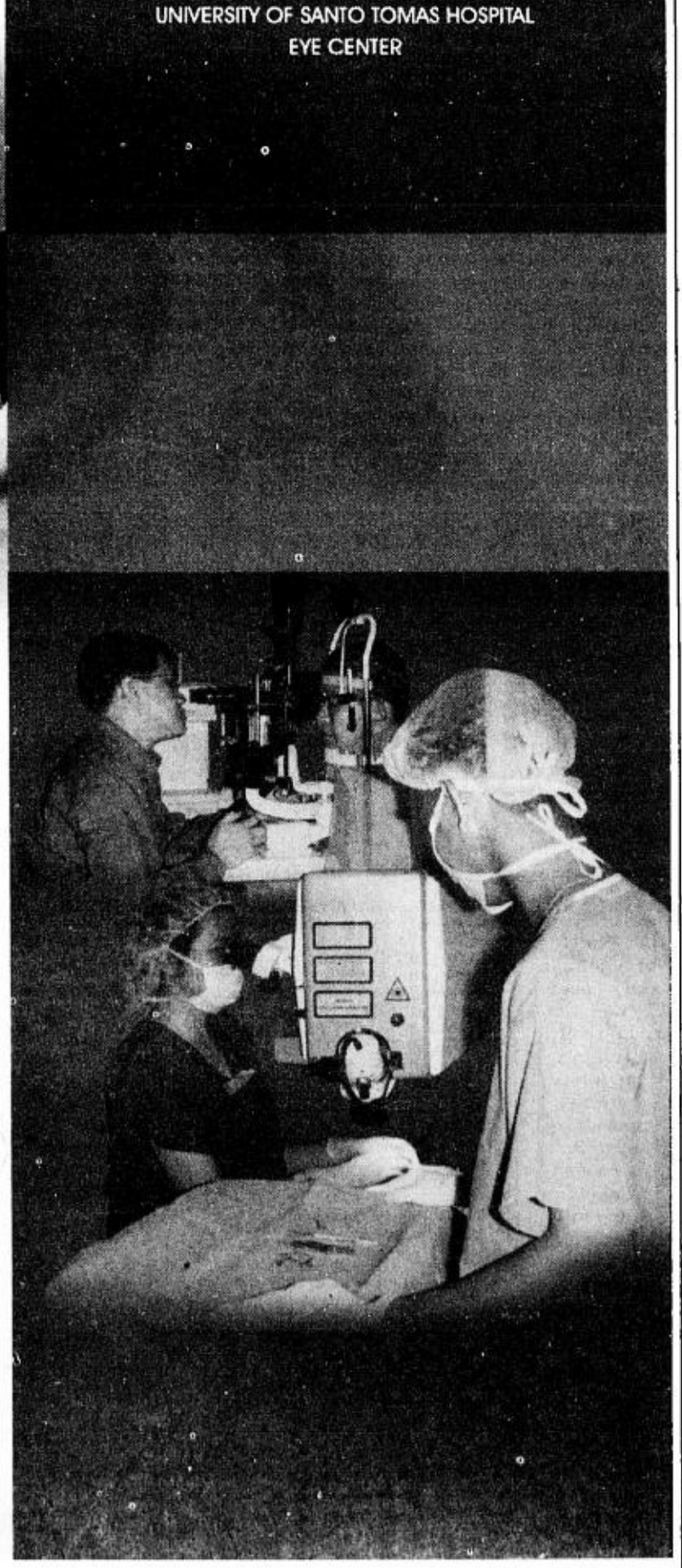

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Lobbying for safe biotechnology

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

WHAT would you rather have—crops raised with pesticide or crops that are genetically modified?

Biotechnology advocates say untreated corn with rotten kernels produce molds that create aflatoxin, the strongest known carcinogen on earth. Aflatoxin can also be found on untreated peanuts.

Pesticides and insecticides find their way to the human body. Some pesticides stay potent for a considerable length of time and linger in the environment and are absorbed by lower life forms. These, in turn, are eaten by more complex organisms in the food chain such as fish, cattle, hogs and poultry. Then we eat these animals. The pesticides in the treated plants have eventually found their way to our bodies and even to mothers' milk.

This cycle is hypothesized to be one of the main causes for the rapid increase in human generations that contract diseases like cancer. (The concept is from Rachel Carson's book "Silent Springs.")

Other pesticides possess certain cyclic compounds that mimic male hormones. With continued absorption of particular molecules, nature will produce more hermaphrodites (organisms that possess both male and female sexual characteristics). Eagles, sharks and whales become hermaphrodites and essentially lose the urge to reproduce. (From "Our Stolen Future" by Theo Colburn.)

Let's not just talk about "gay" animals driven to extinction. How about human hunger, ask the pro-biotechnology advocates. How can Mother Nature by herself address the billions of hungry people all over the world? Can conventional agricultural and scientific methods save the lives of people in need of urgent solutions?

These were just some of the issues raised by scientist Dr. Benigno Peczon, president of the recently launched Biotechnology Conference of the Philippines, a multisectoral group lobbying for the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology in the country.

The BCP is composed of Filipino scientists from the fields of agriculture, medicine, genetics and molecular biology and from local farm organizations, national research councils and institutions.

Biotechnology as a "double-bladed sword" is now a "sharper" issue than ever. And amid strong opposition from groups that call genetically modified food as "Frankenstein food," Filipino scientists are asking Filipinos not to object to the technology without first studying and understanding it.

Dr. Emil Javier, technical adviser to the Food and Agriculture Organization, said that if biotechnology were anti-human, then scientists wouldn't have wanted to be associated with it in the first place.

"People working in this science have reputations to uphold. I am an agriculturist. I do not want myself to be associated (with something) that will turn out to be poison later," said Javier.

Removing our dependence from pesticides, increased food production for the malnourished and developing medicines are some of the benefits that biotechnology is touted to bring.

The BCP is pushing for a national policy and regulatory framework for biotech products that would promote the safe and responsible use of biotechnology.

Meanwhile, the FAO announced that applied biotechnology has already led to increases in production and productivity in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Biotechnology, it said, has also created organisms that could clean up oil and heavy metal spills in fragile ecosystems. Modified tissue cultures have resulted in increased crop yields for farmers.

Medical biotechnology, the FAO said, is likewise finding ways to cure certain forms of cancers and develop vaccines for debilitating diseases such as Alzheimer's, arthritis and asthma.

Peczon said drugs developed through biotechnology would be cheaper and would be developed faster because of recent developments in the mapping of the human genome.

He said: "We have the whole DNA sequence. We will be able to find out what the actual target will be. Drug development using biotechnology will be a lot cheaper, and will take only half the time (to develop). The side effects will be much less, compared to some drugs today."

"People are dying of dengue, malaria and tuberculosis in Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines. Why don't we get together and find a solution to these problems which are killing our people?"

Making biotechnology relevant to people

IMAGINE a banana loaded with a vaccine for hepatitis B. Or rice enriched with vitamin A. Perhaps mangoes that ripen in two months, or corn that is resistant to insects without needing insecticides.

Farfetched? Not really.

Biotechnology has made man's musings a century ago a reality today.

Modern biotechnology is any biology-based technology that uses organisms to make or modify products or improve plants, animals and microorganisms. It applies scientific advances like plant tissue and cell culture, genetic engineering or gene transfer to modify gene fragments of the same, related, or unrelated species to produce new traits in an organism.

Scientists at the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños have long been doing research on some of the country's major export crops—mango, banana, papaya, abaca, coconut—to improve their breed and enhance breeding procedures.

Dr. Evelyn Mae Tecson Mendoza, IPB program leader, said the researches aim to increase crop yield, make the crops more resistant to pests and diseases or enhance their nutritional, processing and storage qualities.

Through marker technology, the IPB identified protein markers for varieties of rambutan through a technique using protein isozymes in the plant's seedling.

The IPB was also able to differentiate coconut seed nuts so farmers could determine the type of coconut they want, saving them money, time and effort.

The IPB also developed an immunological test kit that screens the presence of a stunting disease in sugarcane. Even before the seeds of sugarcane are planted, it can already be determined if the plant would be diseased or not.

These researches, however, have yet to be field-tested.

Using genetic engineering, the IPB is developing papaya and mango varieties with a delayed ripening trait to prolong their shelf life so they could be exported to more distant countries. Also being developed are virus-resistant papaya and banana and borer-resistant corn.

The IPB is modifying coconut so it would produce more lauric acid, which is used as ingredient for detergents, shampoo and soap.

While studies have shown that genetically modified (GM) crops have contributed to the use of less pesticides, less soil erosion, higher and more stable yields and better quality crops, the issue over the safety of GM crops on humans and the environment persists.

Mendoza, however, allayed these fears.

Before a GM crop becomes commercially available, it goes through a series of testing. It is heavily regulated from research and development to commercialization. Safety aspects are addressed in and out of the laboratory.

GM crops like Bt corn, herbicide-tolerant soybean, corn and potato all went through very rigid biosafety regulations, Mendoza said.

She said the potentials of plant biotechnology in the Philippines could be explored further through the help of the private sector, especially the food industry.

Human cloning: Looking for an error-free process

(Conclusion)

BY MASSIE K. SANTOS

THE LACK of scientific accuracy in the movies and television shows may have contributed to the fear of technology. And the new movie productions currently in the works are likely to do more harm than good.

The overnight production in giant vats or glass chambers of many full-grown versions of a single person, like that depicted in "Multiplicity," is not the way human clones are made.

Rather, the cell taken from the donor is combined with an egg and implanted into the womb of the mother-to-be.

Cloning itself is not an issue for most people. In fact, very few realize just how many different animals have already been cloned. And while most seem to accept the idea of growing replacement organs for oneself, which falls under cloning, not all of them may realize that the method of obtaining the original cell from which the tissues develop falls under stem cell research, itself a subject of controversy.

The United Kingdom funds clone research, though not for human reproduction, and Singapore has said it will allow cloning research. However, according to Dr. Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University in Pennsylvania, there are 30 countries that do not allow cloning for purposes of human reproduction.

Like the debate over stem cell research, human cloning has moral, ethical, religious and political implications. The idea of human guinea pigs is of concern to some, while others are far more worried about overpopulation or even an increase in abortion rates or infant mortality that would result from the trials.

Feasibility of project

While Dr. Panos Zavos has said that their work would produce healthy human clones or none at all, scientists are still skeptical. What really concerns these scientists is whether this project is feasible at this time. And many believe that the answer to that question is a resounding "No."

Previous attempts at cloning animals have had a marked rate of failure for one reason, says Dr. Brigitte Boisselier in response to the arguments. The reproductive systems and genomes of animals are not as well known as those of humans. It is therefore more difficult to control the events that take place in fertilization and conception in animals.

In contrast, Boisselier argues, the human body has been extensively studied. Therefore, the success rate of human cloning should be much greater and the results far less ghastly than those obtained with cows, pigs and sheep.

In essence, she likens the experiments that are to begin in November with clinical trials conducted by pharmaceutical companies in the final stages of drug discovery. Despite all the tests on animal models, the best way to determine the efficacy of a treatment is to test it on humans before making it available in the market. All that the animal models can do is guarantee that the drug is safe enough to be tested on humans.

Histone code

In what could be a new argument against human cloning, the August issue of Science magazine published a paper on the "histone code," a process by which genes can be controlled by methylation, or the presence or absence of the methyl (CH3) molecule in the proteins surrounding the DNA. What this means is that genes alone may not be responsible for genetic diseases or defects; the wrong histones around the DNA could be the culprit instead.

If this is the case, argues C. David Allis, one of the paper's authors, then cloning will not be error-free until scientists crack the histone code.

One wonders whether this logic will hold up when faced with people who are willing to take any risk to get what they want—in this case, a child. The need to be immortalized by leaving behind a biological child has been the main reason for procreation since the beginning of time, at least of the human race.

Determined by DNA

What few people have openly asked is whether or not human cloning will pave the way for the production of perfect human beings. In other words, will "Gattaca" become a reality?

Producing "perfection," such as humans perceive it, is a matter of genetic engineering, not cloning. A child having the right physical attributes and IQ and without problems such as asthma, astigmatism or baldness is not determined by cells but by the DNA within.

Genetic engineering itself is under fire because of the way it affects the food people eat, but that is another story. It is not too difficult to see how this issue of genetically engineering people can become the next center of controversy. Once the technology becomes available, the question of who will have new and improved versions of themselves running around may become linked to the question of who will wield the most power and money to bear the cost of creating the perfect clone.

One should bear in mind the simple truth that any successfully created human clone will never have the exact same personality as the original person because there are differences in environment and upbringing. As eager as humans are to assume full control and responsibility for their world, they should remember that playing God means eventually being overthrown by those who believe that their predecessors' beliefs are outdated and that they have become gods themselves.

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The case of the sore calf

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

DR. Epistel Simatupang, an Indonesian physician currently undergoing his residency training at the Manila Sanitarium Hospital, examined the patient thoroughly at the emergency room. Joey N., a 42-year-old government employee, had a rather acute onset of illness. He was still apparently well until a week ago when he suddenly developed on-and-off fever with progressive weakness and muscle pains. He also had loose bowel movement.

Initially, Dr. Simatupang thought it was just a simple gastroenteritis, or a systemic viral infection, but the patient's severe muscle pains, most notable when he pressed Joey's calf muscles, provided a big question which made the young doctor a little uncomfortable with his admitting diagnosis.

"There's got to be more than just gastroenteritis or a systemic viral infection," Dr. Noelvin Bartolome, the consultant on duty, told his resident. And true enough, blood tests showed markedly elevated blood urea nitrogen, creatinine and potassium levels plus highly acidotic blood indicating that Joey's kidneys have shut down; hence, the waste products in the blood were accumulating. His creatine phosphokinase (CPK) was also markedly increased, suggesting that extensive muscle injury was present. This explained the intense calf muscle pain, especially when touched. Dr. Bartolome then called in Dr. Rene Baltazar, the hospital's kidney specialist, to take a look at the case.

"It looks like our patient has severe breakdown of muscle tissues called rhabdomyolysis, and that has caused the kidneys to fail," Dr. Baltazar analyzed. A series of hemodialysis was done which gradually brought down the waste products in the patient's blood. Hemodialysis is a procedure where the patient is hooked to a machine that serves as an artificial kidney cleansing the patient's blood of the accumulated waste products. Joey's kidneys subsequently opened up and were able to function again, not requiring continuation of the dialysis.

Thorough discussion

"The patient is now fine," Dr. Bartolome said during the medical conference when they presented Joey's case, "but we need to identify what initially triggered the muscle injury or rhabdomyolysis which then caused the kidney failure." He and Dr. Simatupang then made a thorough discussion on rhabdomyolysis and its causes.

Rhabdomyolysis is a relatively infrequent disorder characterized by degeneration and destruction of skeletal muscles. There is a massive catabolism or an extensive breakdown of muscle tissues with protein degradation or proteolysis. When present, the most usual cause is a severe infection such as leptospirosis (Weil's disease), legionnaire's disease and pneumococcal infection. Any overwhelming infection called sepsis may also lead to rhabdomyolysis, which has been attributed to substances released in the blood during fulminant infections. These substances, which include tumor necrosis factor, interleukin and interferon factors, promote the release of a specific inflammatory prostaglandin (Pg E2), which in turn activates protein degradation and destruction of muscle tissues.

"When one has a flu or any viral infection," explained Dr. Simatupang, "one may experience muscle pains, but this doesn't necessarily indicate rhabdomyolysis. Rhabdomyolysis is suggested when there are severe diffuse muscle pains (especially in the extremities), profound weakness and swelling, with prominent tenderness or pain when the muscle tissue is pressed. This is confirmed by the presence of myoglobin in the urine and an elevated creatine phosphokinase in the blood."

Another usual cause

Trauma is also another usual cause for rhabdomyolysis. "Obviously, this is not present in the patient," Dr. Bartolome explained. "It also doesn't look like he has a severe or fulminant infection which might have caused it," he added.

"So, what then do you think caused your patient's rhabdomyolysis?" asked Dr. Rudolfo Magat, the conference moderator and the medical department's training officer.

"We reviewed the list of drugs the patient was taking before he got ill and we noted that he was being treated for elevated cholesterol and triglyceride," Dr. Bartolome answered. He then explained that Joey was receiving a drug to lower his cholesterol and triglyceride, and although the dose of

the drug was relatively small, there are already reports that cholesterol-lowering drugs, especially if a combination of drugs is used, may cause rhabdomyolysis. Another consultant volunteered the information that a frequently prescribed drug to lower cholesterol has just been voluntarily withdrawn from the market by the manufacturer due to increasing reports of muscle weakness in those taking the medication.

"All's well that ends well," Dr. Bartolome said in closing the discussion, "but let Joey's case be a lesson for all of us. We have a lot of patients on cholesterol-lowering drugs. We should be on the lookout for complaints of muscle pains and weakness so we may detect early signs of rhabdomyolysis before it gets to be life-threatening."

"We agree," replied Dr. Magat. "After all, as physicians, our primary concern is that first, we must do no harm."

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some information have been changed to hide the patient's identity. Apart from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of the disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

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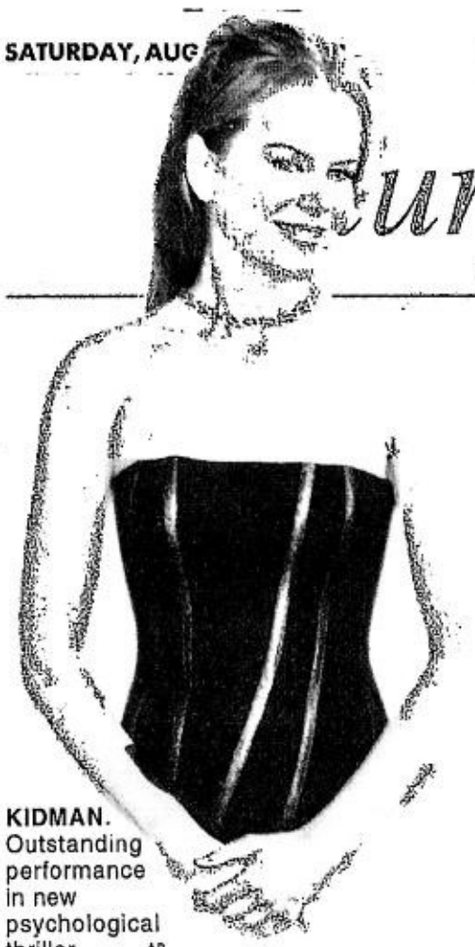

KIDMAN. Outstanding performance in new psychological thriller. AP

Nicole Kidman is at her best in 'The Others'

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE

NEW YORK—Nicole Kidman's divorce from Tom Cruise after nearly a decade of marriage has been a hotter topic of discussion in recent months than her new movie, "The Others," but that should change soon.

Inner fear

Kidman is at her best in this psychological thriller, showing the kind of silent inner fear that first brought her attention outside her native Australia in 1989's "Dead Calm."

And under the sure, restrained hand of writer-director Alejandro Amenabar, "The Others" is an old-school haunted house movie of the eeriest kind.

Kidman stars as Grace, the mother of two young children living in a rambling Victorian mansion on the Isle of Jersey during the last days of World War II. She's sure her husband will return from the war any day now—and she keeps telling her kids that as she tries to convince herself.

Grace has some unusual ways of keeping the children, Anne and Nicholas (Alakina Mann and James Bentley), occupied while they wait for daddy to come home. Because the children are violently allergic to daylight, she keeps them shut indoors all day with the heavy curtains drawn, and methodically closes and locks the door behind her every time she enters a room to ensure that not a drop of sunshine drips in.

Separate rooms

She educates them at home on the fundamentals and religion, sending them to separate rooms and threatening them with the fiery wrath of hell at the slightest outburst.

But she needs help caring for the enormous, stately home, and places a want ad for servants. Soon, a trio knocks on the mansion's thick wooden door.

Mrs. Mills (Fionnula Flanagan) is the nanny, Mr. Tuttle (Eric Sykes) the gardener and Lydia (Elaine Cassidy) the mute housekeeper.

They seem warm, quiet, trustworthy. But they've returned to the house after working there many years ago, and they know all its secrets.

So when things start going bump in the night, not only are they not freaked out in the slightest, they expect it.

"The Others" works because Amenabar, with help from skilled cinematographer Javier Aguirresarobe, plays on our fear of the dark, of the unknown. He relies on spooky lighting and well-placed silences, not high-tech special effects.

And the casting of the children is perfect. Newcomers Mann and Bentley bicker believably, providing some comic relief. But when things get a little weird around the house, their faces—especially their eyes—add another layer of fear. Mann is exceptionally good as the headstrong older sister.

Pure terror

Kidman's control-freak mother couldn't be more different from her "Moulin Rouge" character, the sexy songstress Satine. But there's something in her crystal blue eyes that conveys pure terror so convincingly, it's impossible not to be drawn in.

Although Cruise is out of Kidman's life, he's involved with her movie as one of five executive producers. He also worked with Amenabar in adapting the Spanish director's 1999 thriller "Open Your Eyes" for American audiences as "Vanilla Sky," due out in December.

It's easy to see why Cruise is drawn to this director—he's a natural storyteller with a keen eye for detail and mood.

While Amenabar isn't doing anything terribly new with "The Others," he's doing it well. And there is a twist, and you won't see it coming.

"The Others" is a Dimension Films release. Running time: 104 minutes. *AP*

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Promising movies on TV

SOME film buffs complain that they can't get to see really good Filipino movies on TV. Well, that's only partly true. The supply *is* limited, because many Filipino film classics are no longer intact due to poor preservation of positive prints and negatives. But some of them have survived and can be viewed on cable TV.

For instance, we looked over Viva Cinema's line-up of films for the rest of the month and have come up with this list of viewable movies:

Saturday, Aug. 18, 2 p.m., "Mumbaki."

Monday, Aug. 20, 2 p.m., "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Saturday, Aug. 25, 6 a.m., "Inspiration." 8 a.m., "Sino and May Sala."

Sunday, Aug. 26, 12 midnight, "Talahib at Rosas." 12 noon, "Sa Kabila ng Lahat."

Monday, Aug. 27, 7:45 a.m., "Tagos ng Dugo."

Wednesday, Aug. 29, 8 p.m., "Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-ibig."

Now, some promising foreign movies on cable TV channels:

Saturday, Aug. 18, HBO, 6 p.m., "Soapdish." Cinemax, 5:45 p.m., "Joe Versus the Volcano." Star Movies, 5:30 p.m., "The Thomas Crown Affair."

Sunday, Aug. 19, HBO, 6:15 p.m., "The Prince of Egypt." 9:45 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow." Cinemax, 8 p.m., "Nuremberg, Parts 1 and 2." Star Movies, 9 p.m., "Return of the Jedi."

Monday, Aug. 20, HBO, 4:15 a.m., "Dead Man Walking." 8 a.m., "Saturday Night Fever." Cinemax, 9 p.m., "Ed TV."

Tuesday, Aug. 21, Cinemax, 6:30 a.m. "Lullaby of Broadway."

Wednesday, Aug. 22, HBO, 7:45 a.m., "Reality Bites." 9 p.m., "Cool World."

Thursday, Aug. 23, Cinemax, 3:45 a.m., "The Little Shop of Horrors." Star Movies, 9 p.m., "The Empire Strikes Back."

Friday, Aug. 24, HBO, 11p.m., "The People Under the Stairs."

Jazz duo

Jazz duo Rowena Michaels and Arthur Manuntag are featured every

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Saturday night at the Hyatt Regency Manila's famous Calesa Music Bar and Lounge.

They show off their musical range with a wide repertoire that also includes pop, rhythm and blues and ballads. Showtime is at 9:30 p.m.

Rowena has two albums to her name and was a nominee in the Best Performance by a New Female Artist category of the 1999 Awit Awards. Arthur used to be the lead vocalist of the Second Wind band.

Rudy Francisco, the Hyatt's entertainment director and resident pianist, likes the duo's chemistry onstage. "Both have the talent, and Arthur livens up the show with his spontaneity and humor," he says.

MTV Video Music Awards

The much-awaited 2001 MTV Video Music Awards will finally unreel on Sept. 6 at the New York City Metropolitan Opera House.

Topping the lists of nominees is Fatboy Slim, who got nine nominations. Other top nominees are Christina Aguilera, Li'l Kim, Mya and Pink ("Moulin Rouge") for their music video of "Lady Marmalade;" Missy Elliott for "Get Ur Freak On," and NSync for "Pop," each with six nominations.

Tied with five nominations each are Eminem featuring Dido for his music video for "Stan;" U2 for their music video for "Beautiful Day" and "Elevation Remix," and Destiny's Child for "Survivor." For her part, Janet Jackson got four nominations for "All of You."

To lead up to highly anticipated Sept. 6 awards show, MTV Philippines hosted a pre-Video Music Awards party at Suburbia Manila last Aug. 16. The bash was highlighted by performances by Southeast Asia Viewers' Choice nominees True Faith and Kyla.

Anniversary concert

STI is marking its 18th anniversary with a concert at the Folk Arts Theater at 8 p.m. on Aug. 25, with performances by Freestyle, Regine Velasquez and Roselle Nava. The show is titled "sti@eighteen.more."

Aside from the concert, anniversary activities include an IT competition, a web design concert, battle of the bands, beauty pageant, pop-song duet competition, and ballroom dancing.

The Venue

Top bands are performing at The Venue in Davao City. This September, the popular watering hole features Manila's best retro bands, Spirit of '67, Flintstones, Rockin' Revival and Adlibi St. performing the hits of the '50s, '60s, and '70s, every Thursday. On Sept. 7 and 8, True Faith will have special shows.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-484, Series of 2001

Various artists interpret Bob Marley's classics

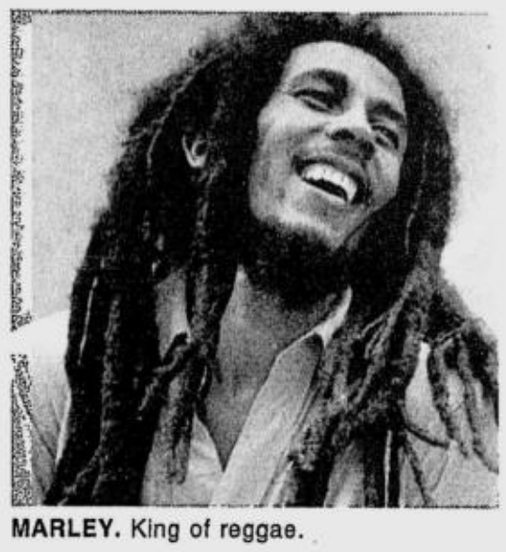
BY POCHOLO CONCEPCION

TWENTY years after his death, Bob Marley is still the king of reggae. Why so?

Bandleader

Because nobody (notwithstanding the outstanding works of fellow reggae masters Peter Tosh, Bunny Wailer or even Lee Perry) has yet to eclipse what he has achieved.

As bandleader of the Wailers, Marley successfully transformed reggae from an exclusively Jamaican art form into a revolutionary force in global pop music.



MARLEY. King of reggae.

In the '70s, Marley performed and recorded a dizzying array of songs that possessed such power and appeal that they seemed to have a life of their own.

In that context, it is not surprising for Time Magazine to pick "Exodus"—Marley's ode to Rastafarian freedom—as the greatest recording of the 20th century.

It is the same song that opens the recently released CD, "A Twist of Marley" (GRP/MCA), a 13-track collector's item featuring various artists rendering their own interpretations of Marley's classics.

New fans

At the very least, this is an album that would probably win new fans for the late superstar musician.

Album producer and lead performer is the prolific jazzman Lee Ritenour, whose earlier work, "A Twist of Jobim," preceded the Marley tribute.

So, how good is the jazz and reggae jam that "Captain Fingers"—Ritenour's sobriquet during his career peak as jazz guitarist—proposes?

At the onset, it is enough for some folks to react with mixed feelings—owing to the fact that the music Marley originally wrote was one of protest and railing against oppression and the supremacy of the white race.

In that case, there should be no problem. (Think long and hard now.) In the beginning, wasn't jazz the music of the black man rebelling against—and putting to good use—his hard times of slavery?

Again, refresh those memory cells: reggae, as personified by Marley, has always been a cover favorite as early as 1974—when Eric Clapton sent "I Shot the Sheriff" to the top of the pop charts, thereby paving the way for the Rolling Stones to put Marley and his band up as the front act on one of their concert tours.

Add to that historical document the truth of Ritenour being a self-confessed Marley fan, which should not faze the prospective listener of the "Twist" CD into thinking that what's in store are just watered down versions of old hits.

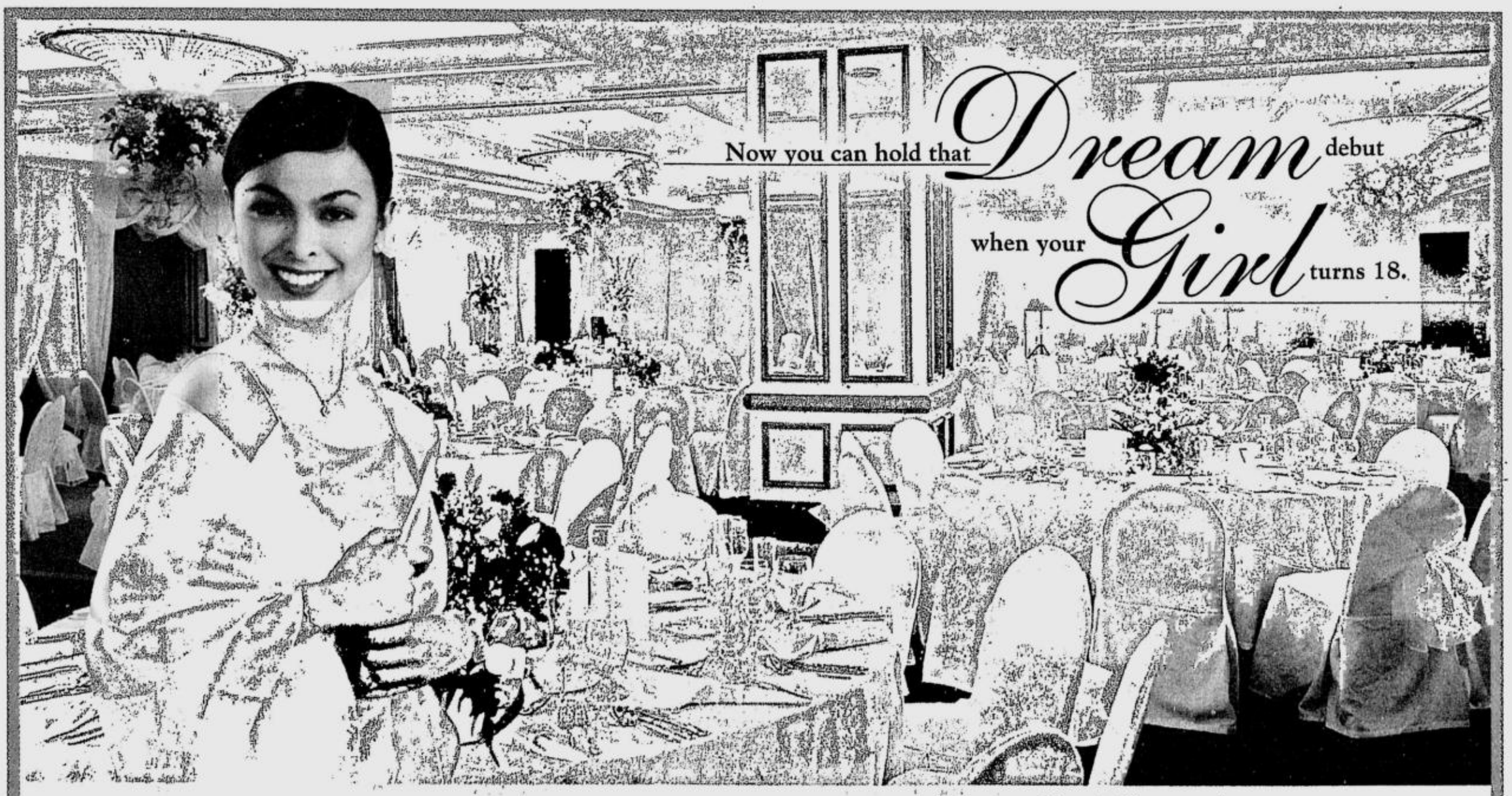
Anthem

Well, it certainly takes time for it to sink into our mind, that such a rabble-rousing anthem like "Get Up, Stand Up" could turn into a mere improvised instrumental shakedown. After a while though, it begins to dawn on us that Ritenour's guitar, Dave Grusin's piano and the assorted blowing horns are the ones that serve as the rallying call to liberty.

The thing about reggae is its beat—a kind of syncopated arrangement that mesmerizes the spirit, as much as it loosens up one's dancing feet. And we get plenty of it in Ritenour's racket, especially his version of "Jamming."

As for the tracks with vocals, there is reason to admire the inspired readings of "No Woman No Cry," "Is This Love," "Turn Your Lights Down Low," "So Much Trouble," "Could You Be Loved," "Redemption Song," "Waiting In Vain" and "Sheriff" by Jonathan Butler, Will Downing, Richard Bona, Lisa Fischer, Phil Perry, Patti Austin and Maxi Priest, respectively.

The performances of the session musicians, led by saxophonist Michael Brecker and bassist-keyboardist Jochem van der Saag, among others, are by no means run-of-the-mill either.



Juday plays a boxer in latest movie

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

JUDY Ann Santos has a new movie with her rumored beau, hunk Piolo Pascual. The title, "Bakit Di Totohanin?" comes from the hit song of the same name sung by Carol Banawa and plays on the romantic interest that the two actors are supposed to have in real life.

In the movie, Piolo and Judy Ann play childhood friends. Piolo discovers that Judy Ann is head over heels in love with him when he finds a love letter that she wrote. When Piolo makes fun of it, Judy Ann swears off all men, especially Piolo, and becomes a tomboy.

Judy Ann later becomes a boxer, taking after her father, (played by Johnny Delgado). In a twist of fate, Piolo becomes her trainer, which leads to them rekindling the old flames, so to speak.

Training

To prepare for her role as a female boxer, Judy Ann trained under Roger Moring. She admits that it was hard and she and her co-stars did end up getting hurt from the punches given and received.

"*Di naman maaalis na hindi kami magkasapakan! Pagka may mga eksena po kasi na mga suntukan, lalo ako, di naman ako* action star, *hindi ako magaling umilag sa mga ganoong suntok kaya nagkakatamaan talaga po kami! Lalo na pag madaling araw na.*"

Judy Ann turned to the movie "Girl Fight" to see how female boxers train and move in general. "*Hinanap ko talaga iyung* DVD *ng* 'Girl Fight.' *Tiningan ko paano kumilos ang* boxer, *pdano mag*-training," she reveals.

Juday shares that during the early shooting days, she had her hair in a ponytail. She said that it always bothered her because her hair kept going to her face during the fight scenes. After watching "Girl Fight," she got the idea of pulling her hair back into a braid. She made the suggestion to her director, Boots Plata. "*Di lang* (for) cinematic (purposes), *mas magiging kumportable talaga sa akin!*"

Many people have seen how sweet Piolo and Judy Ann act towards each other but still they continue to deny that they have any relationship other than friendship. But their excuse has a twist. "*Maraming tao sa paligid namin, pine*-pressure kami. *Hindi maganda kung magkakaroon ng relasyon dahil lang sa* pressure *na binibigay nila,*" Judy Ann declares.

Movie writers at her recent press con noted how she and Piolo have the exact same answer when asked about their supposed relationship. Judy Ann just laughed and joked, "*O sige, papalitan ko sagot ko*!"

Relationship

She says that she and Piolo do not discuss whatever relationship they have right now. "*Hindi kami nag-usap tungkol sa mga puede mangyari sa aming dalawa. Hinahayaan na lang namin. Kung mangyayari, mangyayari. Kung hindi, siguro talagang hindi pa. Ayaw din naman naming mapilitan lang.*"

But the two are obviously attracted to one another, at the very least. "*Hindi kami magkakaroon ng magandang* chemistry *kung wala, di ba?*" Judy Ann comments with a twinkle in her eye. She admits that she is not seeing other guys at the moment.

Piolo has reportedly said that he respects the fact that Judy Ann has just come from breaking off with another young actor. Wowie de Guzman. Although Judy Ann is pleased with the concern, she discloses that she is ready to accept suitors at present. "Feeling *lang siguro nila, kasi kakagaling ko lang sa* isang relationship, they feel that I have to take time, and thank you *na naiisip nila na may mga ganoon pa ring tao pero kung sa pagtanggap ng mga* bagong suitors, never *naman ako nag*-close ng doors pa. Welcome *naman sila e,*" Judy Ann declares. Then she quickly adds, "*Di ko sinasabing lumalandi ako, pero wine*-welcome *ko naman ang mga* male friends."

Judy Ann admits there are no other suitors courting her at the moment. "*Baka nai*-intimidate, *wala daw silang* time. . .*wala silang bilib sa sarili nila*!" she surmises. Besides probably being the highest paid young star today, Judy Ann has her own business, Café Kilimanjaro along Timog ave., which she says is doing very well. She is very happy with the success of her restaurant-bar. She says she goes there very often. When she is there, she cooks and tries all sorts of recipes, usually pastas and salads. "*Pinapatikim ko sa* customers *ko.*" Juday reveals that she finds cooking very therapeutic.

Pasta

Reporters jokingly asked Judy Ann if Piolo were a pasta, what pasta would he be? Judy Ann replied, "Carbonara." Everyone was surprised at her answer and egged her on to explain why. "Favorite *ko iyon e. Hindi nakakasawa.*" She said with a laugh in her voice.

And what about her ex, Wowie? "Spaghetti" was her ready answer. "*Ay,* common!" teased the reporters. "*Masa kasi*! *Ibig kong sabihin, hindi nawawala sa. . .Tahimik lang. . .*" she said laughing, defending her answer. And Juday herself? "Pesto. *Sosyal, pero hindi nakakataba*!" she jokes.

JUDY Ann works out with the punching bag.

Judy Ann admitted that during the shoot of the movie, she and Piolo had to have a three-hour long talk in between takes. They had to iron out some issues (more particularly the big brouhaha about Piolo and Pops Fernandez) before they could go back to the set.

"*Ang dami na kasing nangyari na di namin napapagusapan. Iyung daming iyon, kahit na maliliit na bagay, nagiging malaki, kasi nga hindi namin ginagawang* issue. *Dapat pala dati pa namin pinagusapan para hindi nagpatong-patong ang mga sama ng loob.*" She says that she is very transparent and one can usually tell if she harbors ill feelings towards another persson, especially if that "other" is her onscreen partner! Being professional actors, they decided to finally face the issues. "*Para maging maganda iyung eksena. Kung hindi, paulit-ulit namin gagawin, masisira lang.*"

Stolen kisses

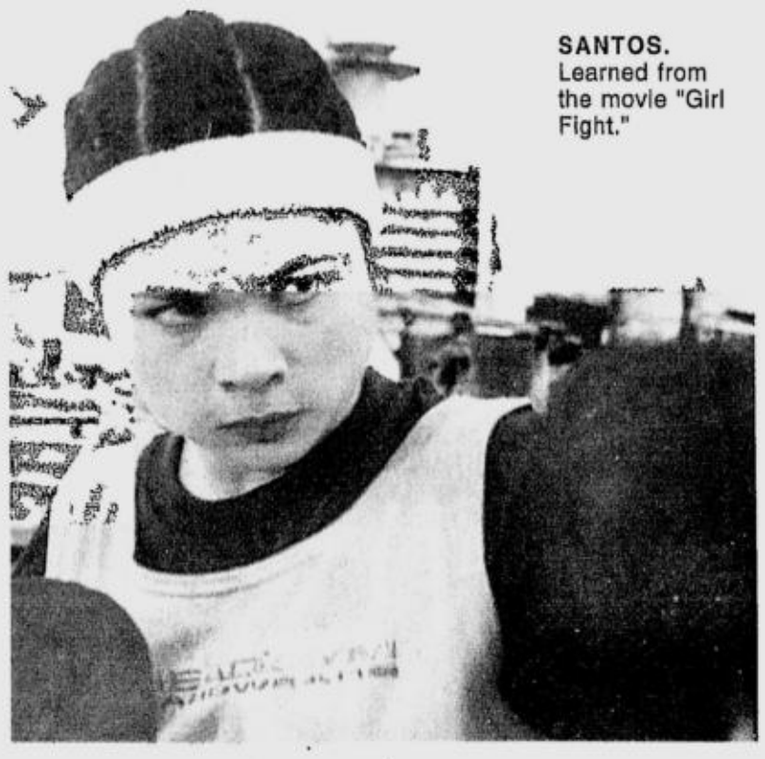
It is also common knowledge that Piolo often steals kisses from his leading lady while on the set. "*Ganyan naman talaga iyang si* PJ. . .*ay si* Piolo. . .*masyado lang talaga siyang malambing. Pagkatao na talaga niya iyon, pagiging malambing.*" But Judy Ann immediately clarifies that he does it only when they are around people who they are comfortable with, like co-actors and fans. "*Di kasi nila* (others) *maiintindihan kung bakit ganoon.*"

She was also asked how she liked Piolo's onscreen kisses. Judy Ann broke into nervous laughter. Didn't she feel anything when Piolo kissed her onscreen? "*Siyempre* it has to come from within!" she immediately answered.

Does he kiss better onscreen or off? More laughter from Juday. . ."Hahahahaaaa! *Hindi pa masyado* offscreen!" But after a while, she admits, "*Siyempre* offscreen *kasi hindi naman. . .hindi naman. . .*," she said, squirming, "Honestly speaking, we don't really kiss *ng kagaya ng ginagawa namin sa pelikula*, we respect each other a lot. *Sa pelikula na lang iyon muna*!"

Many people have also noticed that Judy Ann has lost a lot of weight. She attributes this to the fact that she has been working very hard lately. "*Sa dami ng trabaho, nakakalimutan ko nang kumain.*" She says she did not do anything special but she does go to the gym. But it has already been two weeks since she last went to the gym, again because of her busy schedule. One thing working in her favor is that she does not have a sweet tooth.

What she has to fight is her being adventurous when it comes to tasting new food. What about when she cooks at Kilimanjaro? "*Maliit na tikim na lang, tapos, tapos na*!" she discloses.



SANTOS. Learned from the movie "Girl Fight."

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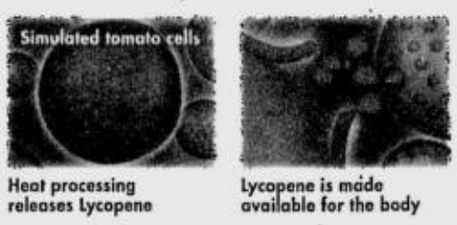

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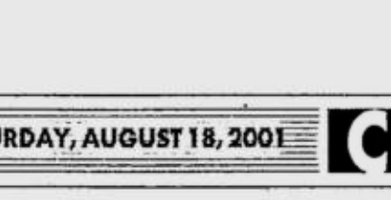

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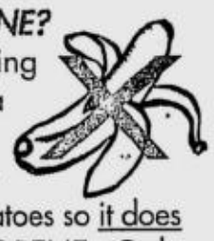

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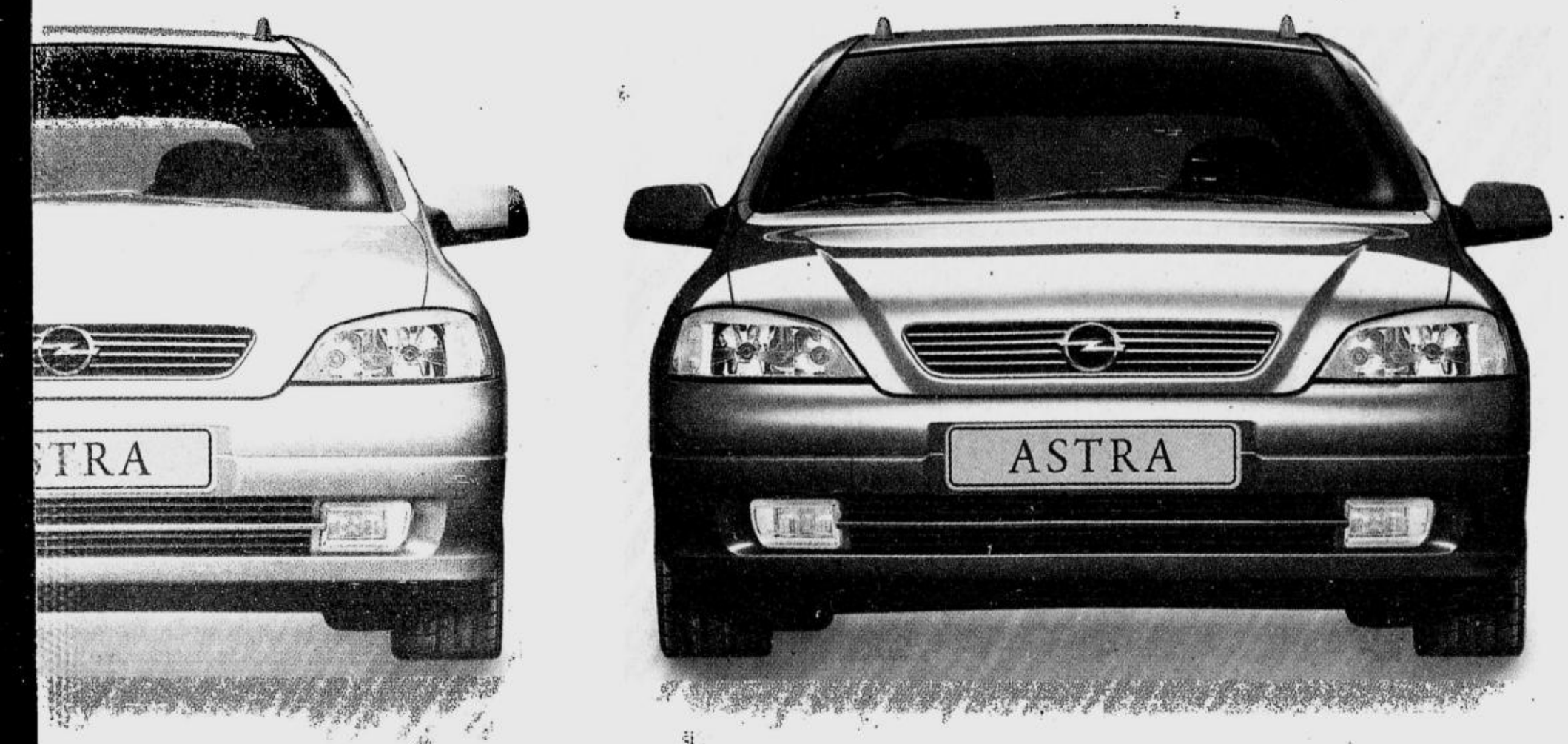

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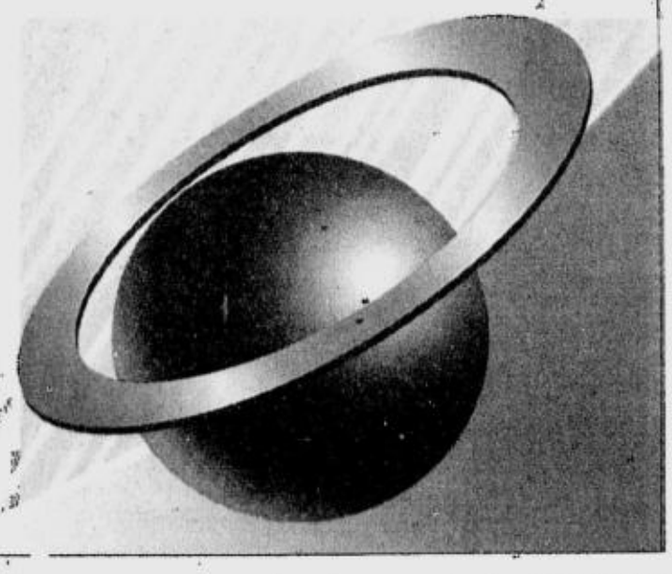

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Does Mikey Arroyo have a bright future as a film star?

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

SOME people have asked us for our take on the P64,000 question of the movie month: "Does Mikey Arroyo have a bright future as a film star?"

Career development

After catching his first lead performance in "Mahal Kita, Kahit Sino Ka Pa," our answer is: Not if he continues to act the way he does in that movie, and if he doesn't change the tack he's taken in terms of career development.

Particulars: In his first starring vehicle, Mikey "goes action," which is a logical move for him, since most of the movies he's appeared in thus far (as a supporting player) have been action vehicles.

We note, though, that he's not an ideal action star because he isn't in very good control of his body, which is relatively flabby, if you compare him to other young action comers.

Fight scenes

When push comes to shove, however, Mikey does OK in his fight and shootout scenes. It's in the scenes where he has to run that he looks uncoordinated.

In terms of thespic performance, Mikey does best in comedy scenes, where his jovial nature serves him in good stead. Contradictorily, however, there are moments when he looks mean and *mayabang*, and this will never do for a new star who's angling for mass-audience support.

Clearly, if he wants his stellar career to progress, Mikey has to resolve these seemingly clashing aspects of his on-camera persona.

Romantic lead

As a romantic lead, Mikey also has some problems. His face is chubby, and doesn't photograph very well on close-up. So, his *ligawan* or romantic scenes aren't all that affecting, specially since his co-star in "Mahal Kita . . .," Judy Ann Santos, has avoirdupois problems of her own.

True enough, when their faces are onscreen together, the movie screen looks too full. This could have been relieved with looser shots, but no such solution materialized.

Obvious, too, was the relative lack of rapport and "chemistry" between Mikey and his leading lady. At first some of this was called for, because the characters they played were supposed to be ticked off with each other.

Differences

However, even when they were supposed to have gotten over their differences, their joint performances remained relatively charmless. This turns out to be a major problem for the film, specially since its publicity more than hinted at a developing romance between the two lead players.

For her part, Judy Ann also didn't benefit from this movie, because her performance in it was full of distracting mannerisms. And she was completely miscast as a journalist!

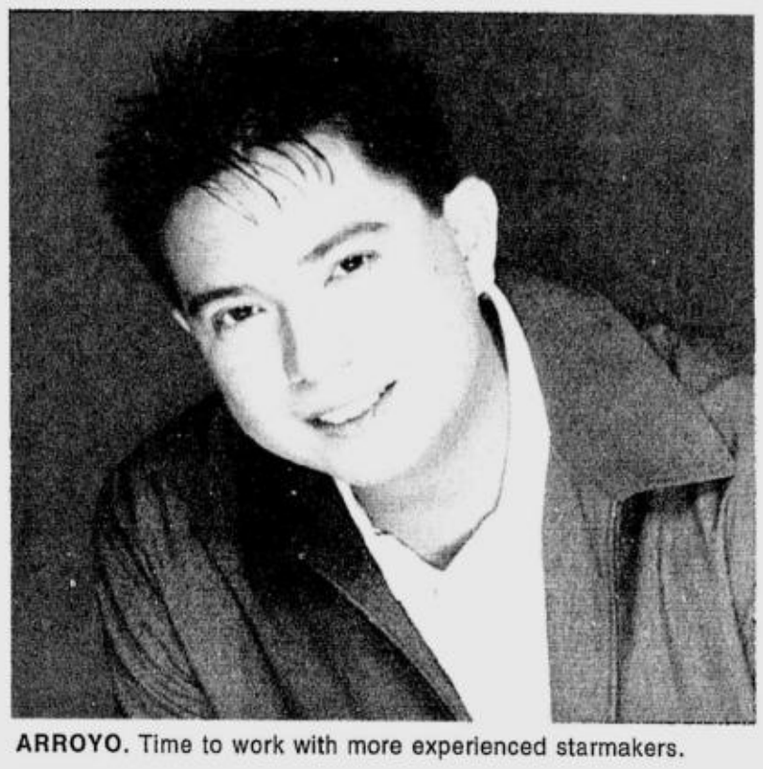
Well, our focus in this piece is on Mikey, so let's conclude this evaluation by pinpointing out that the new action star's career won't really progress unless he decides to work with more experienced starmakers.

Attention-calling projects

When he was a supporting player, it was OK for Mikey to do movies with "B" talents, but serious stellar bids have to be backed up with bigger budgets and more attention-calling projects.

Simply getting a popular co-star like Judy Ann didn't help Mikey make his first starring vehicle a hit, so he should learn his lesson and seek the help of truly gifted film people with a track record for developing popular stars and coming up with significant hits.

Mikey's second starrer is of paramount importance. If, like his initial bid, it doesn't excite viewers, he'll have a hard time recovering from that one-two punch. So, he should plan his next move with great care, and get all the help he can!



ARROYO. Time to work with more experienced starmakers.

Musical-theater star Robert Seña to launch new album

SEÑA. Pouring everything he's got into his second album.

THINK of Robert Seña, and you immediately think of "Miss Saigon," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Rama at Sita," "Katy," "Magsimula Ka" and the other outstanding foreign and local musicals he's been a part of. Yet that is not all there is to this talented singer-actor.

Robert wants to show that there's more to him than just theater. To this end, he is recording a new album under Star Records' Premium label. This will be his second solo album, the first having been launched in 1994.

Pop flavor

This new album will be a little more commercial in appeal, with a contemporary pop flavor, "*parang* Barbra Streisand," describes Robert. It will include compositions by Vehnee Saturno, Gary Granada and Vincent de Jesus, among others. There will also be a remake of the classic "Impossible Dream."

Robert is pouring everything he's got into this album. "This year, I didn't accept any plays or musicals because I wanted to concentrate on my album," he says.

This was the problem with his first album: Robert had barely started promoting it (the album had only been on the market for a month) when he got a job with the Stuttgart, Germany production of "Miss Saigon." So off he flew to Germany without really being able to promote his first album, which consequently fared poorly.

This time around, the album is his priority. Besides, he says, he is done with "Miss Saigon." "Manila (where he played the role of Thuy) for me was the last stop, for sentimental and other reasons," he explains.

Five years

He says that "Miss Saigon" was a very educational experience, especially during the five years that he spent in London as part of the original cast that included Lea Salonga.

Robert and some of the other cast members had to stay for five years to fulfill the residency requirements so they could go back to London anytime to work in a musical or play. But now that he has an album out in the Philippines, Robert says that he is prioritizing it above anything else.

"I learned so much from doing 'Miss Saigon.' Just being able to immerse myself in their culture and observe other artists like Jonathan Pryce was an incredible experience. But now, I have no intentions of leaving the country to work because I want and need to get serious about my career here."

The only reason he would consider leaving again now, says Robert jokingly, "is if someone suddenly gave me a chance to work in Hollywood and star in a movie with Anthony Hopkins!"

Mall tours

While he's waiting for that big Hollywood break, Robert will start on a series of mall tours and TV appearances to promote his new album. This will be in addition to the gigs and corporate shows he is currently doing. All this is giving him a chance to get used to his new "role" as a singer.

"I'm starting to get used to it," he says. "I really started with theater at the University of Santo Thomas, where I majored in Industrial Design but I also enjoy singing a lot. And the fact that that I've been given the opportunity to do another album is really exciting!"

Posing for photos is all in a day's work for Jolina Magdangal

YOU could say that she was born with a photoflash in her face. At 23 years of age, multi-awarded singer and actress Jolina Magdangal already ranks as one of the most photographed female stars in show biz history.

MAGDANGAL. Has her picture taken over a hundred times a day.

Posters

At present, Jolina can be seen on billboards and posters all over the country, Her image has helped sell notebooks, a variety of consumer products, and yes, even plastic dolls. According to her father, Jun, who also acts as her talent manager, Jolina has her picture taken over a hundred times a day.

"As soon as she was born, I tried to take as many pictures as I possibly could," says Jun Magdangal. "Little did I know that through the years, those photos would eventually be recopied a hundred times over." Jun admits that he is besieged by requests from fan clubs and groups asking for the latest photos of their idol.

Flattered

Despite all the flashes, Jolina remains pleased by it all. "I'm always flattered that someone would want a picture of me," she says. "So I always try to give my best. After all, some pictures last for a lifetime."

Jolina has adorned the cover of hundreds of magazines, from "Good Housekeeping" to "Woman Today," from "Preview" to Star Studio," and other fan magazines. Furthermore, publishers of these publications have admitted that sales normally increase whenever Jolina is on the cover.

Fans likewise troop to Jolina's Fashion Gallery, where the star gamely poses for yet more photos. "I never get tired of it. After all, it's easier to smile than to frown," Jolina beams.

Viewers pick outstanding male comedians

BY LEIA TORRE

THE SUCCESS of a comedian depends a great deal on his ability to recognize his strengths and to choose the comedic style best suited to those strong points. Nothing is less funny than a comedian who comes across as trying too hard to make people crack up.

Uncomfortable

This happens when the comedian's performance depends on his doing something that does not feel natural to him, in order to make his audience laugh.

Fortunately for us who love to laugh, quite a number of comedians have succeeded in finding the magic formula that guarantees a laughing audience almost everytime they perform.

VIEWERS/P.C7

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Joey G comes into his own

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

CROSSOVER (105.1) recently presented Joey Generoso as its featured artist for "Crossover Presents" at the Captain's Bar in Mandarin Oriental and we were surprised to see that the ballroom was full.

Jon Santos was comical as he did impersonations of Armida Siguion-Reyna, Mayor Vilma Santos, KC Concepcion and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Jon even prepared theme songs for each character and almost stole the show as he spoofed Side A's "Tuloy Pa Rin" to the tune of "Aawitan Kita."

Joey Generoso looked uncomfortable onstage without Side A to back him up. But as the evening progressed, Joey G's nervousness and anxiety disappeared. His version of "Never My Love" and "Just Can't Let Go" was better than the original versions of Kathy Troccolli and David Pack.

"A Promise Ain't Enough" benefitted from Joey's soothing voice. Of course, it helped that he played his guitar as he sang because he looked relaxed and less jittery.

Joey G confessed that he gave a list of songs he liked and collaborated with musical director Gerard Salonga to select the best ones for the concert. He sang his personal favorites like "Please Don't Ask Me," "Send Me One Line" and "More Today Than Yesterday" and the audience either hummed along or clapped to its heart's content.

Jaya, Bing Loyzaga and Chat Silayan shared the spotlight with Joey G when he cajoled the audience to help him sing "Love Is the Answer." A foreigner gamely sang and got cheers from the crowd.

But the highlight of the evening was the "surprise" duet of Martin Nievera and Joey G on Side A's signature song, "Forevermore." This number alone merited clamors for an extension.

'Hedwig' is hilarious!

Even though it's the raunchiest theatre ticket this year, we made sure we went to the Manila staging of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," the rock musical we heard so much about the last time we were in New York.

"Hedwig" is both hilarious and heartfelt, the story of a transsexual played brilliantly by Jake Macapagal, who tells her miserable tales of a botched sex-operation, a doomed-from-the-start relationship with a self-glorifying rock star, etc.

This one-act musical comes with a full rock band which performs on a makeshift stage. Aside from Macapagal, the only other actor in the cast is Lana Jalosjos, who plays a "man." Jalosjos, the daughter of retired singer Lourna Pal, was the other surprise of the evening.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch" is a must-see musical in this pathetic period of money-laundering, economic sabotage and character assassinations.

(At the PCI Bank Tower One every weekend up to Sept. 2. Call 892-7078.)

'Now, That's What We Call Music'

While trying to kill time early this week, we went inside Tower Records at Glorietta. We chanced upon a compilation album titled "Now, That's What I Call Music 7" and the title got us interested. We looked through the list and reckoned that the CD was worth bringing home. We were not wrong in thinking so.

First, it's a rare joining of forces among three biggies in the music business, EMI/Virgin, Zomba and Universal Records. Then, the featured artists are among the best of the lot: Robbie Williams, Geri Halliwell, Emma Bunton, Janet Jackson, Britney Spears, Ronan Keating, U2 and boy bands N'Sync and Backstreet Boys. The technical aspect of the album is also commendable. A good buy!

Lea's excited to come home

She's in the thick of rehearsals for "The Flower Drum Song" in Los Angeles but Lea Salonga thinks of Manila often.

Lea will come home soon for a series of projects, foremost of which is the play "Proof," to be staged by Atlantis Productions. Being eyed to co-star with Lea are Michael de Mesa and Cherie Gil.

Incidentally, we got a copy of Lea's newly released CD, "Songs from the Screen," a live recording of her successful concert before her "Miss Saigon" stint last year. This is one of Lea's best albums—crystal-clear vocals, superb mixing and high-grade technical recording.

Cogie Domingo is growing up fast

After the controversial mauling incident which Cogie Domingo got himself into, the young matinee idol has gotten our vote of confidence.

In a recent interview, he told us that he has forgiven his "maulers," saying, "Sometimes, life allows us to be surprised so we can learn to be alert always. I have learned my lessons well."

Cogie recently celebrated his birthday and simply wished for things that truly matter: peace, good health and a successful career. Love, he says, is not a priority because he is still young.

Cogie, who has been launched to solo stardom in well-crafted drama films like "Yakapin Mo Ang Umaga" and "Deathrow" doesn't mind a bit that he is sharing a movie this time with two other young matinee idols, Danilo Barrios (they should change this boy's screen name) and James Blanco. "I don't think I have any right to refuse a movie like "Cool Dudes" just because I have had my solo movies. I think that way of thinking is just too *mayabang*, which I think I'm not."

Way to go Cogie, and Happy Birthday, too.

GENEROSO. Sang his personal favorites.

Viewers . . . (From page C6)

Some people who love humor cite the comics who they think are most effective in making them laugh:

"Michael V. He's the most versatile, creative, witty, and well-rounded male comedian around. Not only does he have the ability to take on multiple offbeat characters, but he also sings, plays a good range of instruments, and does everything exceptionally well.

Good show

"You're always guaranteed a good show, not only because he's so talented, but also because he works hard and he manages to appeal to rich and poor alike. That is what truly sets him apart from everyone else!"*--Robi Joseph, 21*

"Michael V. First, because I know that he will shine in any field of entertainment, be it drama, comedy—or even action (?). This is because he is extremely talented. He's a good singer and actor, and he can make the simplest things seem very funny.

"One of the things I admire most about him is his ability to impersonate people. He does this very successfully, especially with make-up on, to help enhance the illusion of his resemblance to whoever he is impersonating at the moment. Best of all is his ability to relate to audiences of all ages, most especially with children, who I think are harder to please.

"I think this ability to communicate with children stems from the fact that he's like a child himself! He does not rely on his face to be funny; simply hearing his voice is sometimes enough to make you laugh, because of the many nuances he imbues it with."*— Marianne San Pedro, 19*

Cartoon character

"Janno Gibbs. He looks like a cartoon character! Honestly, he does. I really don't know how he does it: When he performs, he looks like he was plucked from the middle of a funny cartoon show, made human, and then placed on the stage to entertain us.

"His body movements are very natural—he doesn't look like he's playing a role, but he *is* the role. His face can be made to convey all sorts of expressions, and he is also capable of modifying his voice to match those expressions.

"An additional asset of his is his very good singing voice. It's not directly related to comedy, but I find that it enhances the entertainment value of his shows a great deal."*— Cristina Rodriguez, 22*

"Bernardo Bernardo. I like his quips! He acts in a very exaggerated manner designed to tickle your funnybone. His role is always that of the schemer who is invariably thwarted in the end. People always find this funny, as they like it when the "bad guy" gets his due.

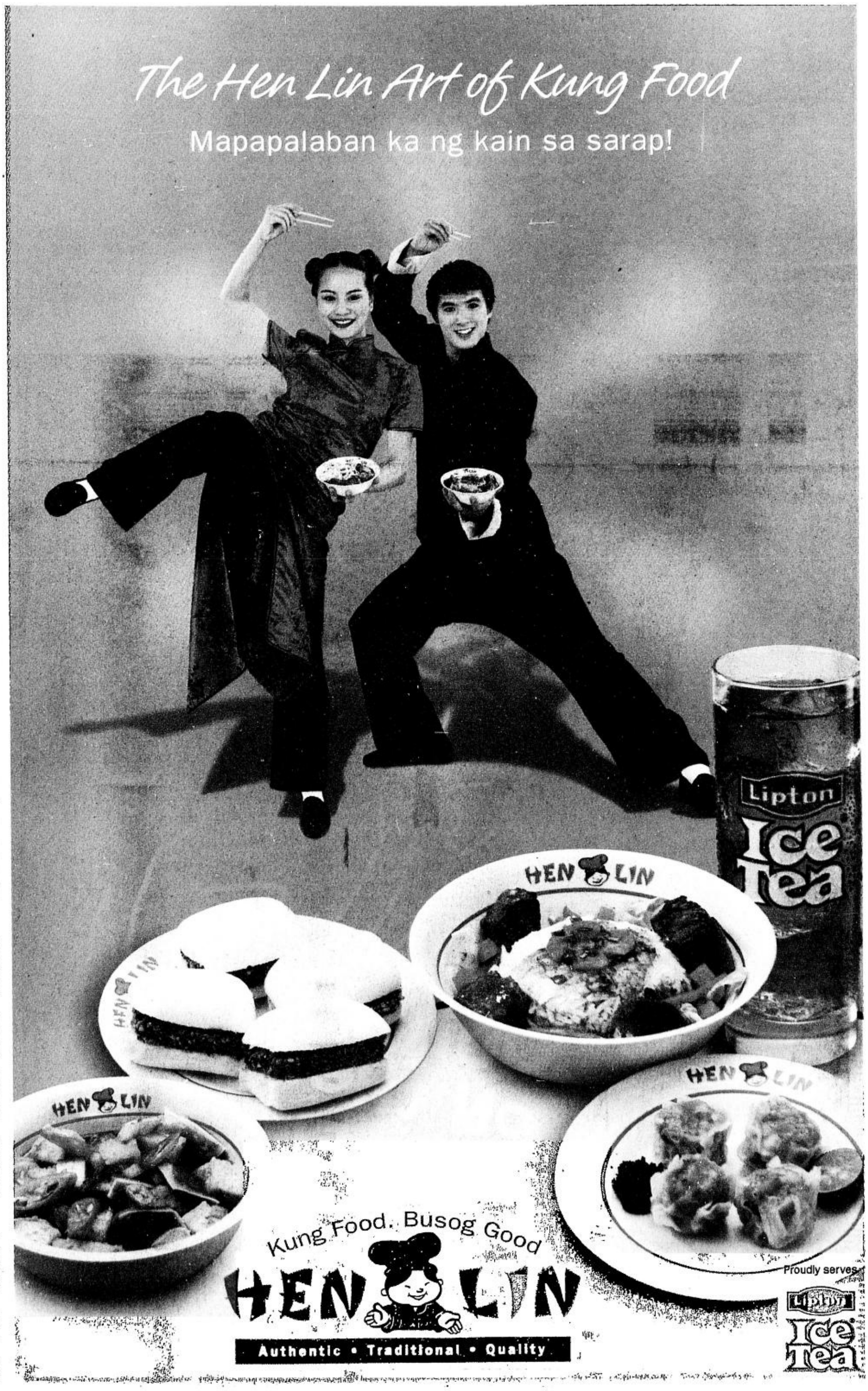
Schemes

"His act is that of being mad at people, scheming to get back at the world, and then having his schemes backfire on him. The character he plays is usually a caricaturized misanthrope, and he makes it look funny. He also portrays the sophisticate, with disastrous results.

"What's funniest is that all these disastrous results do nothing to deter him from what he wants to do. He makes determination look funny!"*— Cyril Quinto, 22*

"Long of 'Kool Ka Lang' and Bayani

VIEWERS/P. C8



ALBUM REVIEWS

Sugar Ray and Destiny's Child spurn unrequited love

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

Sugar Ray
Warner Music

PRETTY Boy Mark McGrath must have had a pretty rough lovelife, because it shows in Sugar Ray's fourth studio album. Each song is just a variation on self-blame and thrashing women who never cared enough or never gave them the time of day. But what makes this album enjoyable is its cool balance of pop, rock, hip-hop and funk.

Guest

Having Nick Hexum as a guest on "Stay On" is a bonus. Never mind if the number sounds like another teen romance song. It has recall and a sing-able melody.

It's kind of irritating at first to hear songs that blame women, but the melodies are so engaging that you end up playing the whole album again. Shucks, this album has the ability to grow on you.

SUGAR Ray will make you mad, laugh and sad at the same time.

'Survivor' advocates being saucy, strong and sexy without losing one's femininity

The first time you hear it, you'll think it sucks. The second time you hear it, you'll think it will do as background music as you drive or lounge around the house. By the third time, you're definitely hooked.

DESTINY'S CHILD. The pluses of being a woman.

"Words to Me" gives a new angle on expectations and relationships. "Waiting" talks about karma and paying for their "sins."

"Sorry Now" has a sad, melancholic feel but the lyrics are not apologetic. Hearing lines like "I know you're right, you're always right" smacks of resentment and bitterness. So the apology sounds fake and insincere.

Heartstrings

"Ours" aims to tug at girl's heartstrings and sees guys as sensitive, lonely creatures. Anyone who has ever been dumped can surely relate to this song.

Even if Sugar Ray sounded, much better before they became a "mainstream" band, you'll enjoy listening to this album because it makes you mad, laugh and sad all at the same time.

Destiny's Child
'Survivor'
Sony Music Phils.

This album advocates being saucy, strong and sexy without losing one's femininity. Even if Destiny's Child changed its line-up of vocalists, the vocal chemistry is still there. Beyonce, Michelle and Kelly give each song a zesty yet sensual feel. The exotic beat of some songs also adds sensuality and texture to the album.

"Independent Women" is a feel-good song about being in control of your life and enjoying it. It encourages women to be themselves. Having a career and making lots of money does not make you less of a woman. Finally, a song that truly espouses "girl power" without thrashing guys.

Moving on

"Survivor" is about moving on after a failed relationship. Nope, Beyonce, Michelle and Kelly are not wallowing in self-pity, nor are they recounting "what should have been" in the relationship. They accept their fate and are confident that they can handle the emotional turmoil because they're survivors.

"Sexy Daddy," "Bootylicious" and "Apple Pie A La Mode" are naughty, titillating, sensual songs. In a way, they glorify the intimate aspect of being in a relationship without being offensive.

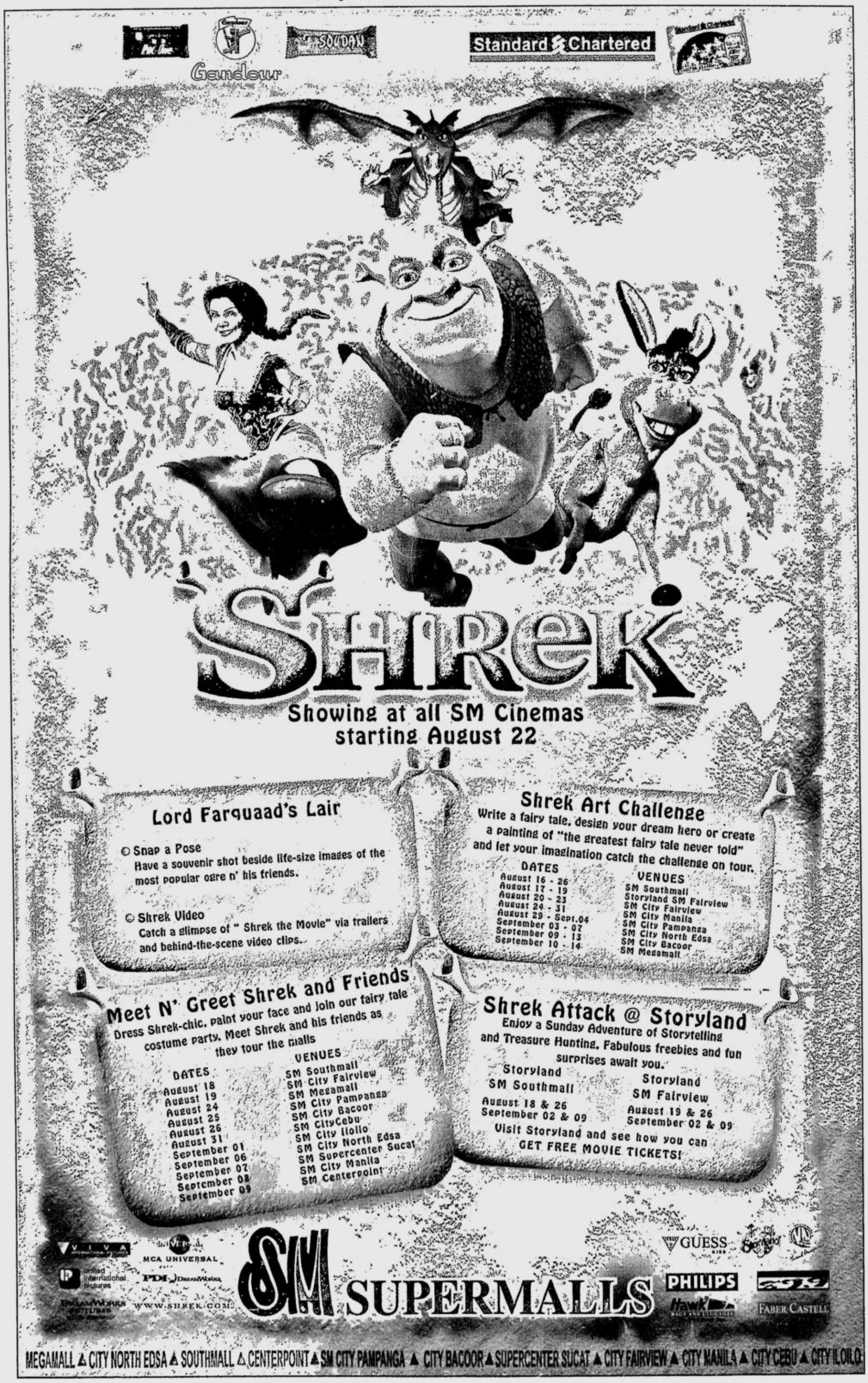
"Perfect Man" is a sexier, sensual version of DJ Alvaro's "Ang Tipo Kong Lalake." Listening to this song can make you appreciate the pluses of being a woman.

Subtle take

"Dangerously in Love" makes you question what you believe in, while "The Story of Beauty" is a subtle take on vanity, appearances and expectations.

"Emotion" is a revival but somehow Beyonce manages to give the song a new, sensual, upbeat twist without destroying the original version. Yup, she stamps her own style on this revival hit, and scores points with it.

These gals can turn the most innane themes unrequited love, independence and beauty, into tunes worth listening to.



Viewers... (From page C7)

Agbayani. Both of them are natural comedians—they don't need scripts to be funny as they are both capable of ad-libbing.

"Long has a distinctive style: he plays an arrogant but ugly person *a la* Rene Requiestas—watch 'Kool Ka Lang' and look for the thin guy, and you'll see what I mean.

Stoic

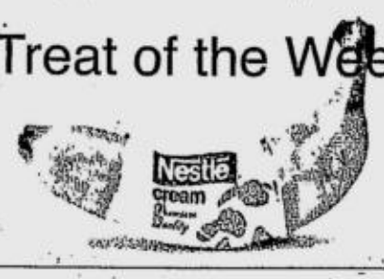
"Bayani, on the other hand, delivers his lines with a stoic, no-nonsense expression that has a hilarios effect. He's the primary reason I watch 'Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis.'" — *Gustavo Lim, 22*

"Michael V. He cracks the most creative jokes. The things he says are humorous and intelligent at the same time. He does not rely on slapstick comedy to hold the attention of his audience.

"In my opinion, he has reinvented Filipino comedy, what with the unique dialogue he delivers each time he performs. For a change, I don't find his comedy shows corny at all.

"He actually does not look funny at first glance—if you didn't know what his profession was, you'd even think he was a bit dignified—but nevertheless he knows how to make his audience laugh. That's talent!"-- *Anne Sy, 17*

Treat of the Week



Banana Freeze

1 cup mashed lacatan bananas (about 4 pcs.)
1 cup + 2 tbsps. sugar
1 tbsp. orange juice
1 170g. can NESTLÉ CREAM

Combine bananas, sugar, cream and orange juice in a bowl. Whisk until smooth. Freeze until set.
Serves: 4 - 6

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Penelope Cruz keeps her cool in Hollywood heat

BY JILL SERJEANT

MALIBU, Calif.—Penelope Cruz was feeling the heat. The dark-haired Spanish beauty had spent all day in the blazing Malibu sunshine fending off questions about her romance with Tom Cruise.

"I'm too warm," she said, shifting uncomfortably. "Can we move out of the sun?"

Front pages

Cruz's "couple of dates" with Cruise, which were eventually confirmed by his publicist five months after Cruise's split from his wife Nicole Kidman, have put the 27-year-old actress on more front pages than any of the 30 movies she has made since starting her career in Spain in 1991.

But those 10 years gave her superstar status at home and a clear set of rules for how to cope with being fodder for gossip columns.

"I have been dealing with that since I started working in my own country when I was 16, 17. I never talk about my private life. That makes it easier, although sometimes it is not an easy thing to do," Cruz told Reuters in an interview. "I never in my life talked about personal things and I will not break that rule."

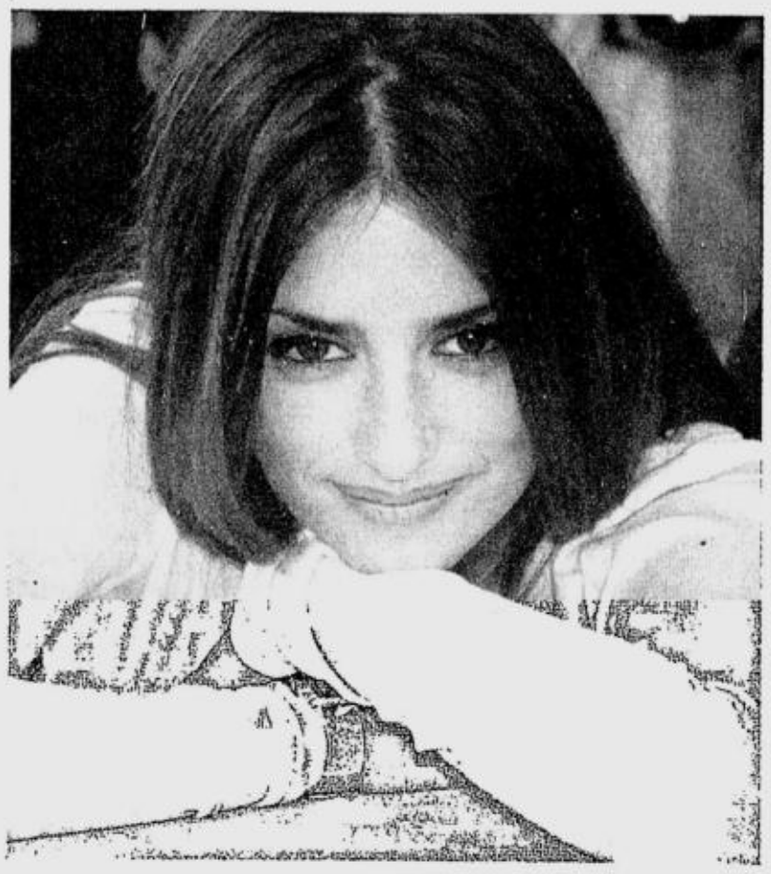
"I'm never completely relaxed in interviews. You have to be so careful because everything can be used against you. It has happened so many times," she said. "There is always that light on which is controlling what I say. It is the only way not to get hurt later."

And with that, the subject of Cruise is charmingly but politely Cruzed . . . err . . . closed.

Fragile beauty

Even more stunning in person than on screen, Cruz's fragile beauty belies a strength of purpose that has put her within reach of the kind of Hollywood stardom enjoyed by only a handful of European actresses since Sophia Loren and Ingrid Bergman.

Only two years after getting her break in Hollywood, she landed the lead in "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" as the young Greek girl Pelagia at the center of a heart-breaking wartime drama set on the occupied island of Cephallonia.



CRUZ. Will not answer personal questions from the press.

Pelagia is her most high-profile role to date.

"I thought this character was a gift. It is a very complex character (with) a lot of controlled emotion," she said. "It gave me a greater opportunity to do a bigger range of things. Pelagia carries the weight of the movie."

"It was a good challenge. I didn't want to focus on the fear," Cruz said. "I was grateful that I got a part like that and I wanted to work as hard as I could and learn as much as possible."

Co-star

Cruz was romantically linked with her Captain Corelli co-star Nicolas Cage during filming, just as she was reported to have hooked up with Matt Damon, her co-star on last year's "All the Pretty Horses." She has denied both relationships but the rumors led gossip columnists to label her the "Spanish enchantress."

Despite her long, dark mane, ethereal looks and dancer's poise—she spent 14 years training as a dancer before deciding to concentrate on movies- Cruz has managed to avoid being typecast as a sultry Latin.

Although she spent much of the time naked in her first movie "Jamon, jamon," made when she was just 17, Oscar-winning Spanish director Pedro Almodovar cast her as a pregnant nun in "All About My Mother," and in the Hollywood movie "Blow," released earlier this year, she plays a foul-mouthed cocaine addict.

She worked hard to learn English but is still not happy with her accent, touchingly unaware that her soft Spanish inflection is part of her beguiling charm for English-speaking audiences.

"I don't think I should lose it completely but it is good to work on it, to be able to transform your nationality and do different accents," Cruz said.

At home, Cruz is known as the "Madonna of Madrid" for her work as spokeswoman for Spain's Sabera Foundation, which has taken 75 homeless girls off the streets of Calcutta and given them health care, an education and music lessons.

Exhibition

She spent a week in Calcutta working with the late Mother Teresa and has interviewed and photographed the Dalai Lama for an exhibition about Tibetan exiles staged in Barcelona.

She is nearly as reluctant to talk about her charity work as her personal life, yet she is quick to deny a widely-publicized report that she donated her entire salary from her first Hollywood movie "Hi-Lo Country" to Mother Teresa's children's sanctuary in Calcutta.

"It's not true. If that was true I would never say something like that to the press," Cruz said, briefly losing her cool.

"I used to not talk about it. Then I said to myself, I don't care any more if they misunderstand me, if they think I am doing it for myself," she said. "I know my motivation. With the foundation I am the spokesperson, so I have to talk about it and how much those girls' lives have changed."

Cruz plans to continue dividing her life and her career between the United States and Spain, where she has just completed a Spanish-language movie "Sin Noticias de Dios.

"I think it is safer for my career not to be in one place the whole time," she said. "And for my health—my .mental health, my physical health, everything. I think it is good not to forget where I come from."

It is Manhattan rather than Malibu that attracts her.

"I always wanted to buy an apartment in New York. It is a place for studying and it makes you want to grow.

"Not everyone there wants to talk about movies all the time," she said. "There are so many other things in life to talk about."

Except, presumably, for Tom Cruise. *Reuters*

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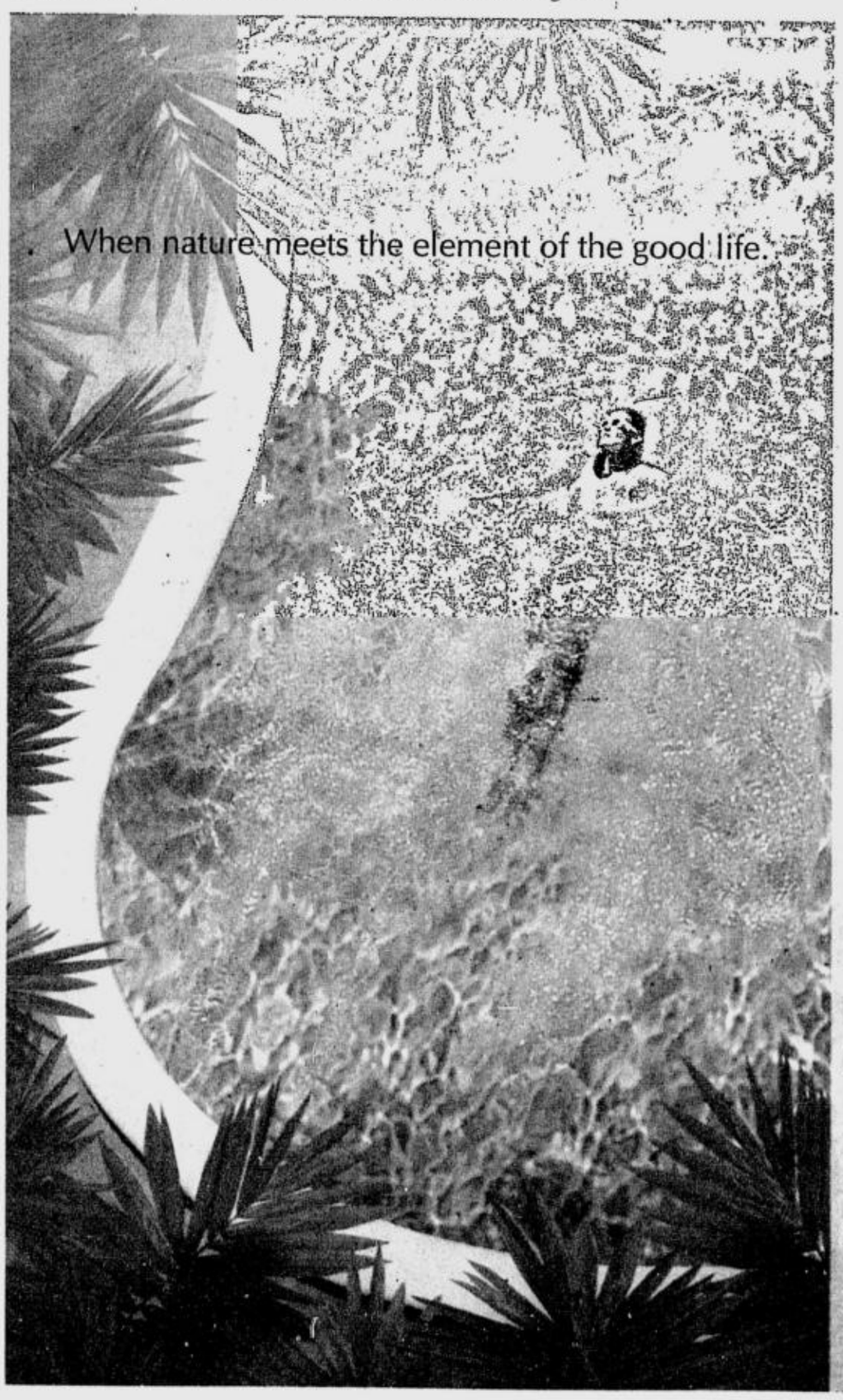

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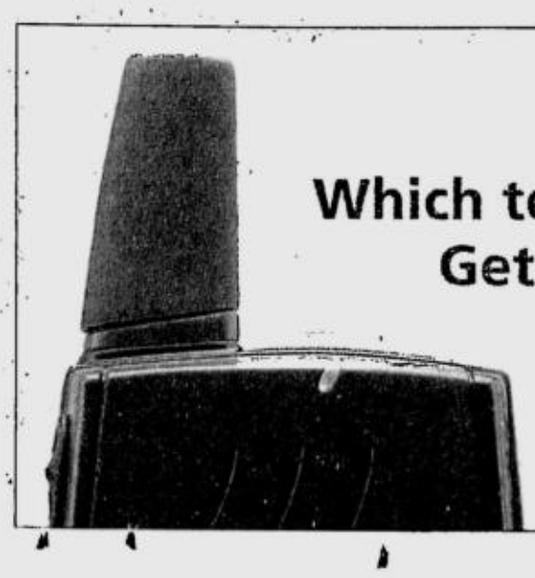

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Venice film festival takes on new look

ROME—The Venice Film Festival is taking on a new look for its 58th edition that opens Aug. 29.

The festival, which runs through Sept. 8, will include two primary competitions—the Venice 58, an international competition for full-length films, and the new Cinema of the Present focusing on current trends in cinema.

11-day run

The festival will screen 140 films during its 11-day run, organizers said in presenting the program Friday.

The 20 films in the international competition come from Spain, Italy, France, Hong Kong, Mexico, the Netherlands, India, Romania, Brazil, and the United States.

Italian filmmaker Nanni Moretti will preside over the jury that will judge the international competition. Moretti's film "The Son's Room" won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year.

A host of American movies are featured out of competition, including Steven Spielberg's "A.I. Artificial Intelligence," with Jude Law, Frances O'Connor and William Hurt.

Animated film

Also showing out of competition will be Woody Allen's "The Curse of the Jade Scorpion," starring Allen and Helen Hunt; David Mamet's "Heist" and "Tuesday," an animated film by British director Geoff Dunbar that features the voices of Dustin Hoffman and former-Beatle Paul McCartney.

The festival will also include a retrospective of the cinematic works of Polish director Andrzej Munk and Frenchman Guy Debord.

Rounding out the festival, French filmmaker Eric Rohmer will receive a Golden Lion career achievement award. Rohmer's newest work, "L'Anglaise et le Duc," will be shown at the festival. *AP*

STEVEN SPIELBERG. His "A.I." is featured out of competition.

Films at the Venice Film Festival

TWENTY films are in competition in the 58th Venice Film Festival that runs from Aug. 29 to Sept. 8:

"Los Otros" ("The Others"), by Alejandro Amenabar, Spain-United States.

"Quem Es Tu?" by Joao Botelho, Portugal.

"Luna Rossa," by Antonio Capuano, Italy.

"Heung gong yau gok hor lei wood" ("Hollywood Hong Kong"), by Fruit Chan, Hong Kong-France-Japan.

"Bully," by Larry Clark, United States.

"Y Tu Mama Tambien," by Alfonso Cuaron, Mexico.

"Sauvage Innocence," by Philippe Garrel, France-Netherlands.

"Eden," by Amos Gitai, France-Italy-Israel.

"Soochwieen Bodmyung" ("Address Unknown"), by Kim Ki-duk, Korea.

"Waking Life," by Richard Linklater, United States.

"The Navigators," by Ken Loach, Britain-Germany-Spain.

"Monsoon Wedding," by Mira Nair, India.

"How Harry Became a Tree," by Goran Paskaljevic, Ireland-Italy-Britain-France.

"Raye Makhfi" ("Void Votes"), by Babak Payami, Iran-Italy.

"The Triumph of Love," by Clare Peploe, Italy-Britain.

"Luce Dei Miei Occhi," by Giuseppe Piccioni, Italy.

"L'Apres-Midi d'un Tortionnaire," by Lucian Pintilie, Romania-France.

"Behind the Sun," by Walter Salles, Brazil-Switzerland-Frzzance.

"Hundstage," by Ulrich Seidl, Austria.

"Loin," by Andre Techine, France-Spain. *AP*

Cops play cat-and-mouse with video pirates

BY ALLYCE BESS

NEW YORK—It was the end of a true crime, cat-and-mouse game over pirated videos of the hit movie, "Cats and Dogs."

Police snapped a lock with a pair of bolt cutters, and film-industry crime fighter Pete English busted into a dark storeroom filled with thousands of illegal videotapes of movies that only days before hit theaters around the United States.

Copies of Warner Bros. comedy "Cats and Dogs" were stacked high in one corner, Paramount's "Pootie Tang" in another and Dimension Films' "Scary Movie 2" against a far wall.

Typical

"This is pretty typical," said English, an investigator for The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

He's seen it all before, and even though this investigation led to a seizure, English knew there were thousands more tapes hidden in tiny storerooms around New York where video pirates now store their booty. That contrasts to only a few years ago when pirated tapes were shipped from large warehouses.

For years major movie studios, Warner Bros., a unit of entertainment giant AOL Time Warner Inc., Paramount, a division of Viacom Inc., and Dimension of The Walt Disney Co., have faced unorganized bands of video pirates who rob them of millions of dollars in revenue.

Near-perfect copies

But the problem is rapidly spreading to new DVDs and video CDs, which promise near-perfect copies compared to the often grainy videos shot with hidden cameras in movie theaters.

English's boss, Bill Shannon, who heads US anti-piracy efforts for the MPAA, said illegal copying of videotapes costs MPAA member companies upward of $250 million in sales a year in the United States.

EVEN new films like "Cats and Dogs" are illegally copied by the thousands.

That figure has only slightly declined from the piracy's heyday in the early 1990s. The MPAA estimates that global piracy costs the major movie studios $2.5 billion annually.

While video pirates have been operating in and around New York for years, English, Shannon and other experts said their operations have changed since the late 1990s, when police broke up some of the biggest piracy operations.

Instead of setting up large factories to distribute tens of thousands of videotapes and CDs, the pirates establish smaller operations, so if police raid one, the losses are only modest.

Moreover, the miniaturization of cameras and falling prices for recorders have improved the speed and efficiency with which the pirates can copy and distribute tapes.

That point was illustrated widely on the streets of New York the past month as illegal copies of hit movies like Paramount's "Tomb Raider," Disney's "Pearl Harbor" and Warner Bros. "A.I. Artificial Intelligence" could be bought within hours of their official releases in theaters.

Camcorder

Recently the MPAA caught one pirate who was recording movies the night they came out with a camcorder he had bolted on a plank of wood hidden inside his backpack. "He had the eyepiece attached to a cord so he could look through it and adjust the camera at the same time," said Shannon.

The Brooklyn man would then make up to 30 to 40 copies of it in his mother's apartment and sell them to pirates with bigger labs for about $150 each, according to Shannon. Those pirates would then make thousands more copies using their larger facilities, and the illegal copies would be sold on the street for $5 to $10.

Frank Creighton, director of anti-piracy for the Recording Industry Association of America—whose member companies lose roughly $300 million in sales each year to non-Internet piracy—predicts that trends in the motion picture arena will closely mirror trends in the music industry.

Where once almost all pirated music was distributed on cassette tapes, the advent of CDs has led to relatively cheap CD "burners" that pirates could install at home and make nearly perfect, digital copies of recorded music.

Video marketplace

"The same thing could happen in the video marketplace with DVDs," Creighton told Reuters. DVDs, or digital video discs, are copies of movies stored on small discs much like CDs.

Shannon said the MPAA is shifting resources toward finding pirated DVDs, working with U.S. Customs agents focused on reducing illegal DVDs imported from Malaysia, China, Taiwan and Russia, among others. In some overseas countries, at any time, as many as nine out of 10 DVDs or VHS tapes are pirated copies, according to the International Intellectual Property Alliance.

Currently, there are very few US piracy operations that target the burgeoning DVD business because machines that duplicate DVDs, called mono-liners, cost about $1 million each, which is far too expensive for street pirates.

"We have not seen DVD factories here yet, but that's going to change very soon," said Shannon.

And it is very likely that just as with videotape copies, the pirates will find willing buyers for pirated DVDs.

Experts said consumers want copies of current movies people are talking about rather than waiting for a legal video release which can be six months to a year after a film hits theaters.

Light sentences

Additionally, Shannon said, piracy is not taken seriously enough by courts where judges hand down relatively light sentences of sometimes eight to 10 months.

With billions of dollars at stake, the MPAA refuses to give up its pursuit of the pirates, but despite routinely busting labs and distribution locations, they never really know how much of a dent they're making in the problem.

"It's too lucrative," said English, boxing up illegal tapes in the Brooklyn storage room. He wiped some sweat dripping down his forehead. "This is just a drop in the bucket." *Reuters*

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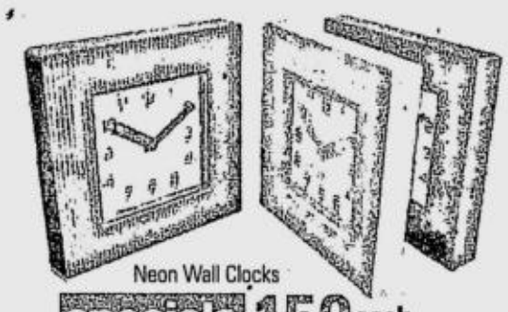

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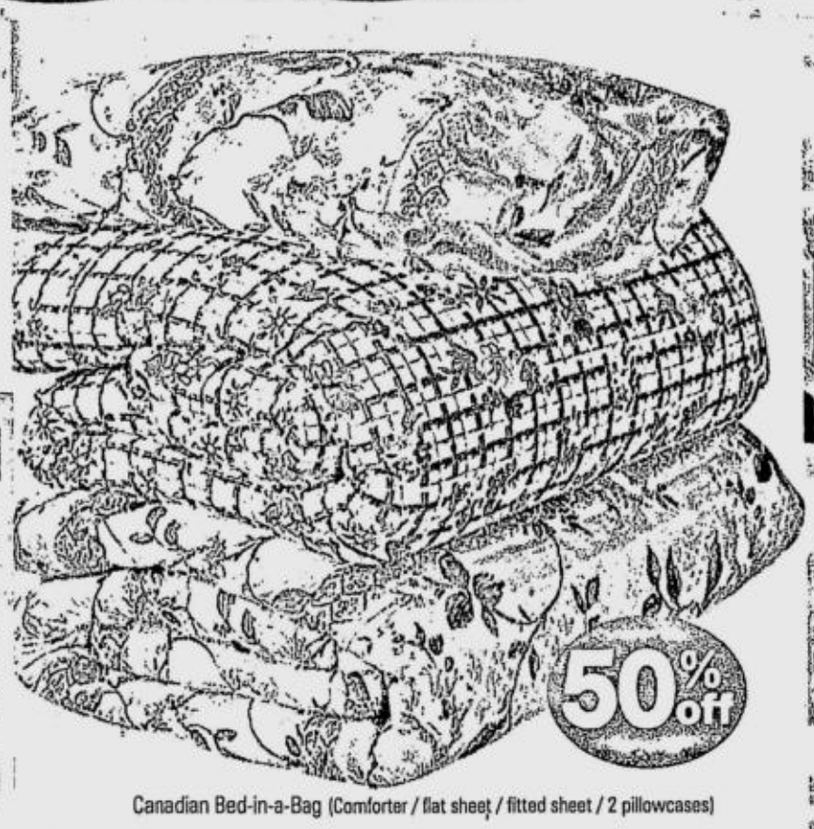

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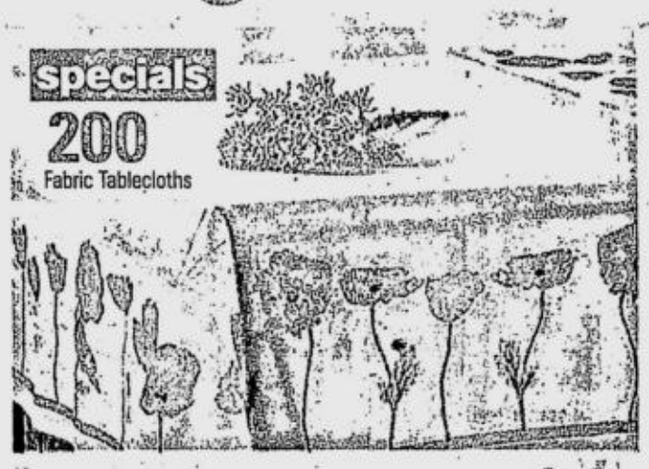

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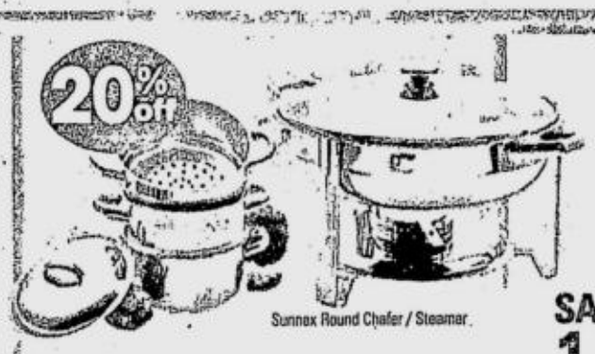

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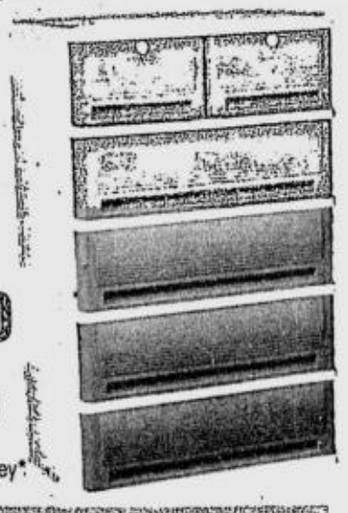

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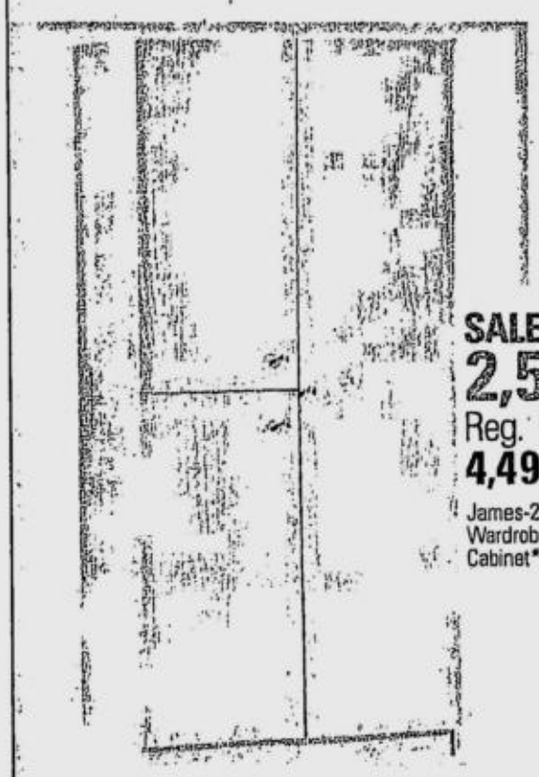

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Debbie Reynolds remains unsinkable

BY BOB THOMAS

(Conclusion)

REYNOLDS' family later moved to a house in Burbank, where conditions were better, but not much. At Christmas there were no presents, and the tree was a hedge that their father had cut. Mary Frances (her birth name) and brother Bill decorated it with colored paper cutouts.

Conditions improved during World War II when their father found work at Lockheed Aircraft's massive Burbank plant.

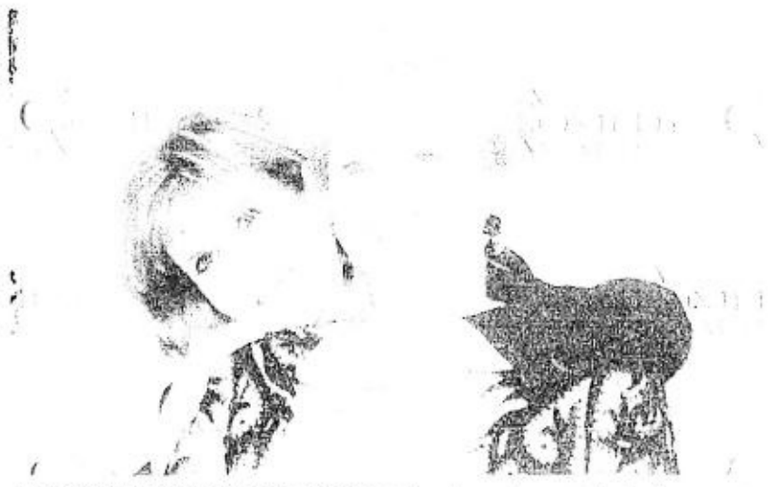
Winning a beauty contest as Miss Burbank led to a contract for Mary Frances at Warner Bros., where she acquired a new name, Debbie. After minor roles in two films, she moved to MGM. She was cast in three supporting roles, then thrust into the big time with "Singin' in the Rain."

"Gene Kelly was hard on me, but I think he had to be," she said. "I had to learn everything in three to six months. Donald O'Connor had been dancing since he was 3 months old. Gene Kelly since he was 2 years old. Cyd Charisse and everybody were so talented. To be thrown in there, I think Gene knew I had to be challenged.

"I was terrified, I was crying. I was practicing and rehearsing all the time, my feet were bleeding. I was trying, but it was so much to learn."

Star buildup

The success of "Singin' in the Rain" called for a star buildup, part of which involved pairing Reynolds on publicity dates with rising young actors. Her father was concerned the actors might take advantage of his little girl. "He needn't have worried," she remarked.



REYNOLDS WITH CARRIE FISHER. She doesn't want to fall in love again.

Quiz book tests film buffs' knowledge of movie trivia

BY NOELANI TORRE

WITH the hundreds of quiz books that abound in stores, one wouldn't immediately pick up this slim and unassuming black volume. Printed by Ventura Associates Inc., it bears the plain title of "Movie Trivia Quiz Book" but, as is announced on the back cover, it is "jampacked with quizzes and teasers, facts and information." One thing, though, one has to be a fan of relatively old movies or else one would find oneself stumped.

Intriguing

The book is divided into five chapters—"Supporting Players," "Leading Ladies," "The Male Lead," "Four-legged Screen Stars," and "Let's Go to the Movies," in that order. The questions are pretty intriguing, requiring a good memory for faces, human or otherwise, other than that of the lead stars, and for the names of those who worked "behind the screen," so to speak.

In the first chapter, as the title suggests, the questions pertain to those other characters in the movies—the minor roles that any movie cannot function without and that don't necessarily have to be forgettable.

Take this item, for example: "She plays a 12-year-old prostitute named Iris in Martin Scorsese's 'Taxi Driver.'" Who is she? This is a well-known film that launched the career of this very successful actress whom we saw last in "Anna and the King." Yup! It's Jodie Foster. Her performance as Iris earned her popular as well as critical acclaim.

Here's another one: "Perhaps it was typecasting, but he plays a former Mr. Universe who trains at Jeff Bridges' gym in 'Stay Hungry.'" Well, perhaps you might have forgotten that film, but you're really dense if you can't dig up the answer. It was Arnold Schwarzenegger, of course.

Madman

Okay, here's one for "Gone With the Wind" die-hards: "He went from the once-proud Gerald O'Hara, owner of Tara, to a madman living in a dream during the course of 'Gone With the Wind.'" We didn't know the answer, either, but we found out that it's not Clark Gable, it's Thomas Mitchell.

The second chapter, "Leading Ladies," might be easier but we wouldn't bet on it. Try this: "She stars as Fanny Brice in the delightful musical 'Funny Girl.' Omar Sharif is her romantic interest." Okay, so that's relatively easy, but not if you think she's only a singer Barbara Streisand is, was a Gala actress, and a good one, too.

This one's for James Bond fanatics: "One of the premier sex symbols of the '60s, she co-starred with Sean Connery in the first James Bond feature, 'Dr. No.'"

The only sex symbol to know from that decade is Marilyn Monroe, but we were born was after the '60s anyway, so maybe you know who she is. That's right, Ursula Andress (we checked the answers page).

Epic

The one we can all probably guess: "She was the first actress to demand and receive $1 million for starring in a film. The film she first got it for was a major Hollywood epic co-starring Rex Harrison and Richard Burton. Can you name the woman and the film?" "Cleopatra" was also an epic flop but surely Elizabeth Taylor can get away with a million bucks?

Real movie maniacs will find the third chapter, "The Male Lead," quite easy. Try this one: "He played the title role in the musical 'Jean Chretien, Superstar.'" Yikes! No, not Barth, Ted Neely!

Okay, even we know this one: "A Raisin in the Sun," "Porgy and Bess," "Edge of the Field," "To Sir With Love," and "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" are just a few of his film credits." Yes, Sidney Poitier.

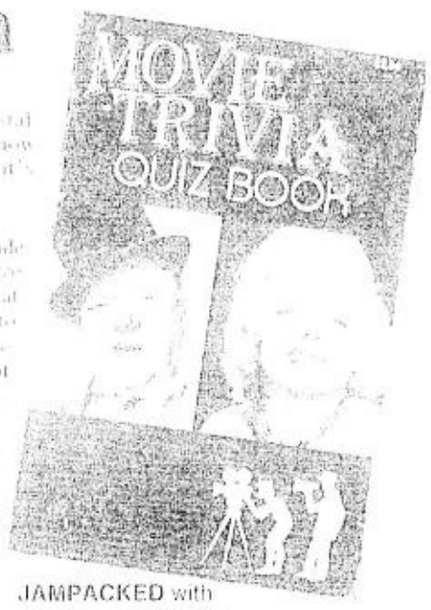
We're sure you know this one, too: "This actor's name is virtually synonymous with film epics. They include 'He Agonys and the Ecstacy,' 'The Greatest Story Ever Told,' and 'El Cid.'" Yup, Charlton Heston on that movie you watched for your Spanish class with Sophia Loren playing opposite him.

Chapter Four might be little tricky even for film buffs, but who knows? This one's easy: "One of the heroes of this film is a wizened, white-tailed lion named Peppino." If you know your mythology, you'll know it's "Clash of the Titans."

Giant ape

Here's another that they've made a new version of starring Charlton Heston: "He was a giant ape that Terry Moore and Rex Ingram came to help escape the cave he kept them in to play in." "Medley for Women," of course, but we're sure you returned her lunch because of Charlton.

The last chapter is all about movies and the people who made them. If you pay attention to the credits, then you'll know the answer to this one: "This Italian director's films include 'The Taming of the Shrew,' 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon,' and 'Romeo and Juliet.'" He's quite famous, Franco Zeffirelli. We watched most of his films for English class. What about this? "Gene Hackman as a mariner tries to lead the trapped passengers of this capsized ocean liner to safety in this Irwin Allen film." Surprisingly, a friend's 12-year-old sister knows the answer. ("The Poseidon Adventure?," she shrieked. Due to all those reruns on cable TV, probably.)



JAMPACKED with quizzes and teasers.

SOLIMAN (left) with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and senior management of Cemex Philippines.

Juris Soliman and the excitement of cement

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

"BUT what's so exciting about cement?" Juris Umali Soliman's friends demanded when she revealed that she was joining Cemex Philippines, a cement manufacturing company which is a subsidiary of Cemex, the third largest cement company in the world.

Miniskirt

"Can't you imagine me among those cement plants in my miniskirt?" Juris asked impishly. She still boasts of a neat, trim figure and a pair of shapely legs which she readily shows off in her famous miniskirts, which are about four inches above the knee.

But flippancy aside, Juris liked the challenge of being Corporate Communications Director of Cemex Philippines, a position she assumed in June 2000 after a colorful career at Citibank.

Juris shows a clear-eyed grasp of the current difficulties in the cement and construction industry. She talks soberly of how the virtual paralysis of the construction industry has affected the cement manufacturing industry, which is also battling cheap cement imports. She is proud of Cemex's firm commitment to safeguard its investments in the Philippines despite its losses.

She marvels at Cemex's impressive rehabilitation of its Apo and Solid cement plants in Cebu and Antipolo, respectively. She confides that these plants are now operated so efficiently by their Filipino staffers that they are hailed as among the best cement plants in the world in addition to being among the cleanest and most environment-friendly.

Old hand

Juris has overall responsibility for Cemex Philippines' publicity, media relations, communications strategies as well as special events and corporate identity. She is an old hand at this game. She is Treasurer of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) of which she has been member since 1994.

During her six-year stint at Citibank, Juris reveled in the variety that each day's events brought to her work as their Country Protocol Officer/Public Affairs Officer. As with Cemex, Juris handled Citibank's media relations and acted as the Bank's primary liaison to both government and private institutions. Citibank also harnessed Juris's considerable talent as an event organizer.

She has coordinated the visits of distinguished guest speakers at Citibank's lectures, including United States Secretary of State Colin Powell, Saudi Arabian Prince HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

She has come a long way from the activist who joined the Cory Media Bureau in 1985, in the hope of ushering in an era of over-due change in Philippine society.

Useful

With Cory Aquino's assumption to power, Juris was hired as the Supervising Media Relations Officer in the Office of the Press Secretary in Malacanang. Her years there gave her the valuable government network that she now finds so useful in her corporate communications work.

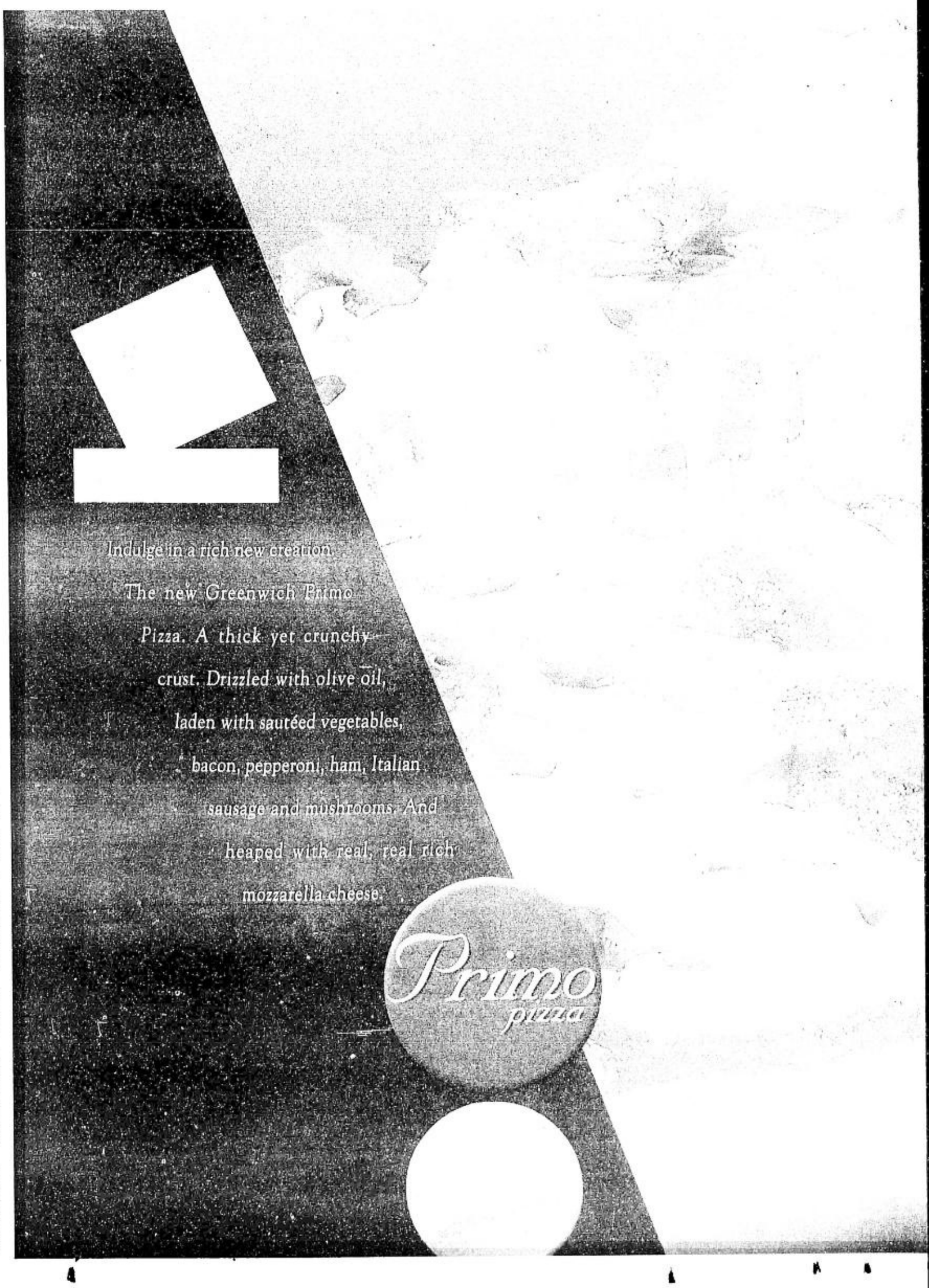
In the mid-seventies, Juris risked the censure of a society that insisted that women stand by their men, even if their faces were purple with bruises. Juris eventually fled domination and sought to support her son, Joseph, now 28, and Catherine, now 24, by herself.

Today, her three-page resume shows how far she has gone from the misery and uncertainty of those early days. She is now the doting grandmother of Joseph's twin daughters, Bea and Jammie.

Although she thrives on excitement in her career, Juris has no qualms about retiring early. She has no fear about her own financial security and does not even save for her retirement. In fact, she would like to devote more time to her own private charity work and is toying with the idea of setting up her own foundation.

When she is not busy with company business, she helps at a healing center in Bagumbong, Caloocan City where she claims she has seen miracles take place through the prayer of the RVM nuns. She also frequents the Carmelite Nuns at Lipa and supports Chosen Children, Operation Smile and Tulong sa Don Bosco, among others.

JURIS cheek by jowl with US Secretary of State Colin Powell!



'Rush Hour 2' is fun, frolicsome ride

BY DAVID GERMAIN

LOS ANGELES—In the closing-credits blooper reel for "Rush Hour 2," Chris Tucker wisecracks that a freshly dead bad guy won't be back for the next sequel.

Count on Jackie Chan and Tucker to be back for "Rush Hour 3," though. The co-stars and director Brett Ratner, who also made the first "Rush Hour," have plenty of mileage left in this winning buddy-flick franchise.

It's not a great comedy or a great action movie, but "Rush Hour 2" has enough of both—plus the best squabbling-cop duo since the early "Lethal Weapon" films—to make it a fun, frolicsome ride from start to finish.

Police inspector

The action picks up where "Rush Hour" left off, with police inspector Lee (Chan) returning to Hong Kong accompanied by motor-mouthed LAPD detective Carter (Tucker), who's looking for some R&R in the Orient.

To Carter's consternation, Lee agrees to help investigate a fatal bombing at the US Embassy. The case quickly leaves them dangling over a busy Hong Kong street on a length of creaky bamboo, busting up a massage parlor and crashing a swanky yacht party with fists and feet blazing.

The scene shifts to Los Angeles and Las Vegas as the pair tracks a counterfeiting ring led by Ricky Tan (John Lone), an ex-Hong Kong cop with a dark connection to Lee's dead father. Lone, star of "The Last Emperor," makes for an elegantly sinister villain, even with his limited screen time.

Henchwoman

Zhang Ziyi, the high-kicking anti-hero of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," plays Tan's venomous, butt-stomping henchwoman. Zhang remains a formidable physical presence here, though her one-dimensional role leaves little opportunity to show off the dramatic subtlety she demonstrated in "Crouching Tiger."

Rounding out the cast is Alan King in a disposable part as a billionaire conspirator and Roselyn Sanchez as a feisty Secret Service agent who keeps Lee and Carter guessing as to which side she's on.

Don Cheadle has an amusing cameo as a martial-arts enthusiast who puts Carter in his place by calling him "7-11," "because his mouth never closes." Jeremy Piven steals his brief scene as an effete Versace salesman with a hilarious stream of one-liners.

As with the first "Rush Hour," the simple plot—a plan to launder funny money through American casinos—serves mainly to set Lee and Carter up in tight comic corners.

This time, there's more balance between which actor does most of the fighting and which one most of the yammering. Tucker throws a few more punches, while Chan gets to hurl a few more insults.

Earnest delivery

The quips, put-downs and other repartee are fairly ordinary, but earnest delivery by Chan and especially by Tucker makes the dialogue feel smarter and snappier than it is.

"In Hong Kong, I am Michael Jackson. You are Toto," Lee tells Carter.

"You mean Tito," Carter responds. "Toto's what we ate last night for dinner."

The hand-to-hand combat is pretty pedestrian compared with Chan's full-blown martial-arts adventures. But he does make entertaining use of found objects as props in his fighting.

With slightly better comedy and action, "Rush Hour 2" is that rare sequel that exceeds the original, and not only in the salaries of its stars.

A New Line release, "Rush Hour 2," runs 90 minutes. *AP*

'Fusion!' to go on concert tour

THE BRITISH Council bridges cultures and musical genres when it brings together some of the Philippines' foremost jazz instrumentalists, this year's nominee for Best Newcomer in the British Jazz Awards, and two world-class string virtuosos in "Fusion!," scheduled for a nationwide concert tour this month.

Cellist

Matthew Barley, a highly acclaimed cellist from the United Kingdom, teams up with violinist Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata, Latin pianist Alex Wilson, and a top-rate jazz band comprised of saxophonist Tots Tolentino, percussionist Bo Razon, bassist Meong Pacana, drummer Mar Dizon, and vocalist Mon David, under the musical direction of Toti Fuentes.

The all-star ensemble will perform at the Subic Bay Arts Center on Aug. 28, Republic of Malate on Aug. 29, Dusit Hotel Grand Ballroom on Aug. 30, Ayala Center-Cebu on Aug. 31, and the Bacolod Convention Plaza on Sept. 1.

Matthew Barley's musical world has virtually no geographical, social, or style boundaries. He enjoys an eclectic and international career in several spheres of music, both as a musician and an educator. Within a year after completing his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and later at the Moscow Conservatoire, Barley was guest principal cellist for the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia, the London Philharmonic, and the London Sinfonietta. He has since performed throughout Europe, Israel, Russia, and Japan.

Repertoire

Barley's repertoire ranges from Bach to jazz, improvisation and world music. He appeared on jazz singer Ian Shaw's album, and took part in a project with African musician Tunde Jegede. He is also well known in many cathedral cities in England for his Cathedral Cello concerts, playing solo cello suites by Britten and Bach.

A member of the Higher Education Funding Council for England he is also artistic director for the outreach program of St. George's Brandon Hill, Bristol.

DAVID. In demand as a vocal coach.

He is also in great demand for his diverse and innovative education projects which range from running improvisational courses for top level international orchestras to community based events—taking live music to places it rarely reaches such as hospitals, homes for the elderly, and even prisons.

Coke Bolipata began his violin studies at the age of eight with Oscar C. Yatco as a scholar of Stella G. Brimo. Upon Yatco's departure, he continued under Basilio Manalo and Rizalina Buenaventura.

At 12, he won first prize at the National Music Competition for Young Artists and subsequently left for the United States with a scholarship to study at the Julliard School of Music under Dorothy Delay. He pursued further studies under Ani Kavafian and Felix Galimir at Mannes College, Joseph Gingold, Yuval Yaron, and Jacques Israelivitch at Indiana University, and Jascha Brodsky in Philadelphia.

Versatility

Since then, he has established himself as a musician of great versatility, equally dedicated to the solo and chamber music repertoire, as well as being an enthusiastic teacher. He was on the faculty of the Kinhaven School in Vermont for two years before returning home to establish Casa San Miguel in San Antonio Zambales, where he teaches children aged six to 16.

Coke is also the organizer of the annual Pundaquit Music Festival and spearheads the Old Manila Church Concert Series under the Casa San Miguel Foundation.

London-based, with Sierra Leone roots, Alex Wilson is the brightest of all Britain's Latin stars. With a new album fresh from the recording studios in Havana, upcoming shows at the London Jazz Cafe, and a world tour with Courtney Pine, he now carries a celestial twinkle in his eye.

His octet—the Alex Wilson Band is considered a powerful force on the UK jazz scene, producing a highly entertaining mix of salsa, Afro-Cuban rhythms, and West African highlife with consummate ease. Music from his two albums Afro-Saxon and Anglo-Cubano is gloriously energetic and irresistibly danceable—a scintillating fusion of infectious Latin colors beefed up by meaty jazz soloes.

The Guardian once wrote, "It's tempting to wear a hat to his gigs just to be able to throw it into the air!"

Tutelage

Tots Tolentino studied flute under the tutelage of Eric Barcelo at the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music. He then continued his studies on soprano, alto, and tenor saxophones under Joseph Viola at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachussetts, where he graduated magna cum laude.

He worked as a session musician for a every major artist in the Philippines before embarking on a solo career with three albums to his credit, along with an Awit Award for Best Jazz recording on "Inah."

He is currently a member of the Asia-America Jazz All-Stars together with renowned Japanese trumpeter Terumasa Hino and guitarist Lee Rittenour. Tots is also a regular fixture at leading jazz festivals worldwide.

Bo Razon has traveled quite literally through the musical terrain of the world. For nearly two decades, he has been studying researching, performing, and teaching Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, and Caribbean music.

Formerly a rock guitarist in the '70s, Bo reinvented himself on percussion as he played internationally with Francisco Aguabella, Alex Acuna, Armando Peraza, Flora Purim, and Karl Perazzo of Santana.

He has opened shows for Herbie Hancock, Ornette Coleman, General Public, and Red Hot Chili Peppers, to name a few. Bo also launched his debut album, "Biyahero," under BMG Records.

Vocal artistry

Mon David's vocal artistry was honed by no less than the late Prof. Aurelio Estanislao at the UP College of Music. Since then, Mon trekked a checkered career through the local music industry—first, as frontliner for Four Play Band and Melange, then as a much sought-after vocal coach, and soon, as vocalist and percussionist for Jazz Fiesta.

Later, he became immured in wacky musical routines as founding member of the AngFourgettables—the country's foremost QCW's. In between, Mon tried off to the studio—his private sanctum—where he continued to write music from the deepest recesses of his being.

The product was "Soulitude," his second 12-track album, where he incorporated natural acoustics with his voice, adding only a touch of strings or percussion from time to time.

Meong Pacana is perhaps one of the most intense bass players in the country. A product of La Salle Greenhills' Kundirana, Meong went on to play for the DLSU Chorale before gigging out in the USA.

Upon his return, he joined Juan Miguel Salvador and Dingdong Eduque on numerous musical forays until he was drafted into the UgoyUgoy Big Band. Recently, he played in the Singapore Jazz Festival together with the local group Buhay.

Mar Dizon traces his roots to the UP Jazz Ensemble, where he was honed by Prof. Rayben Maigue. There, he got his chance to play with legendary jazz trumpeter Eddie Henderson.

Session work

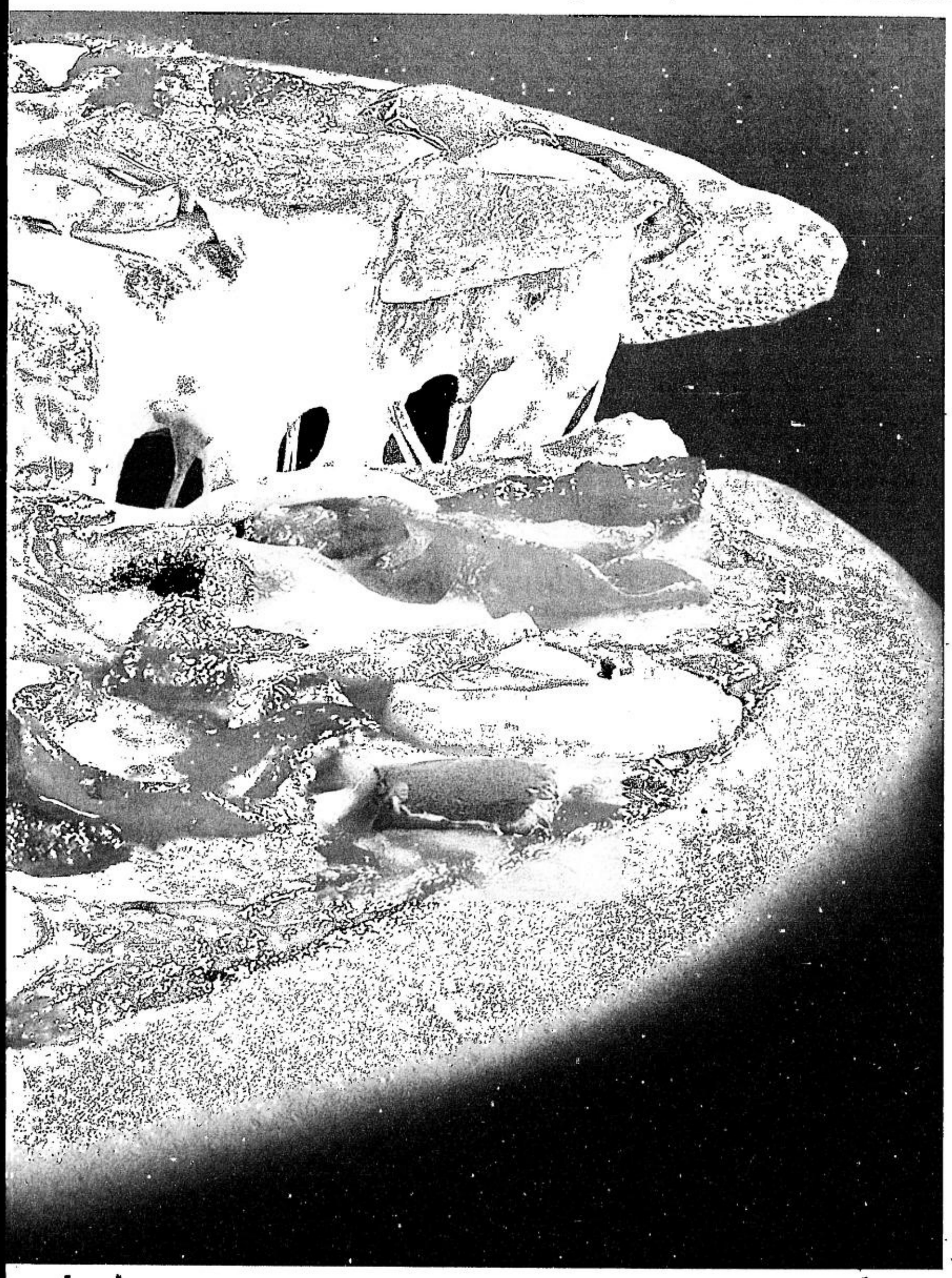
Later, he played for the original Side A band, prior to forming the group Art Start with Pido Lalimarmo. Mar then took over the skins for Parliament Syndicate before returning to session work as one of the Philippines' best jazz drummers.

Toti Fuentes was born and raised in Cagayan de Oro, but made it as a top-notch musician in the United States. Among his impressive credentials are performances with Bill Cosby, La Toya Jackson, the Four Tops, Aretha Franklin, Billy Preston, Anita Baker, Captain and Tenille, Donna Summer, Jose Feliciano, Maureen McGovern, and Sergio Mendes.

He has also played for the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras. At present, he shuttles between America and the Philippines, as he is still musical director and conductor for Tony Orlando and The Dawn. He is soon to leave for a four-month engagement with Andy Williams.

With the star-studded line-up in "Fusion!," the British Council and its partners like Dusit Hotel, the Cebu Arts Council, the Negros Cultural Foundation, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Globe Telecom, Spectrum Music, Republic of Malate, and Citilite 88.3 aim to spice up the music scene while creating opportunities for collaborative ventures among artists from the Philippines and the U.K.

For ticket inquiries, call Susan Arcega at 914-1011 to 14 or the Dusit Hotel at 867-3333.



Carlos Agassi goes beyond rapping

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

(Conclusion)

CARLOS observed that the audience that night was a mixed crowd—composed of guys, gals, and gays. "*Pero ang pinaka*-aggressive, *iyung* third sex! *Titig na titig sa amin! Mga babae naman, tili ng tili*!"

Because of the huge success of the "Hunks" concert at Music Museum, there are even plans of bringing it to the Araneta Coliseum and maybe even to the United States, but these will have to be put on hold because of the conflicting schedules of the members of the group.

How does Carlos feel being projected as a sex object? "*Medyo* flattering *po pag nakakarinig ng ganoon, di ba? Sana lang*, later on, they'd go deeper than that." Carlos says he sees this as his stepping stone to being recognized but wishes to be commended later on for his talents in rapping and acting.

But just to show you the effect that Carlos has on women, listen to this story about a show he had in La Union last weekend. After he sang five songs, the concert was supposed to be over. The people would not leave the place. Carlos said that the people were shouting, "Hunk! Hunk!" Carlos' reply was to tell them, "*Wala po iyung mga kasama ko,*" The people in the audience insisted, "*Hindi, mag*-Hunks *ka*!"

Fainting fan

Carlos finally realized what they meant! "*Doon ko lang na*-get *na mag*-hunks—*tanggalin iyung* T-shirt!" The host of the show then got a female member of the audience. Carlos narrates the rest: "*Iyung babae, pupunta doon, nanginginig. Pag tanggal niya ng pangatlong butones, hinimatay siya sa harap ko*!" Carlos was so amazed that he could have that effect on a person. "*Sabi ko*, wow, *iba talaga nagagawa ng* soap opera!"

"People wouldn't believe, when you look at me, smiling face, *akala nila*, 'He lived a perfect life, *wala siyang* pain, *wala siyang* angst.' *Marami din akong pinagdaanan na hindi niyo lang alam. Dahil medyo nakakahiya*, too personal *na*, all those things *na* I've experienced, they're what made me what I am now," Carlos intimates.

He stresses that he hasn't changed much in the past years, meaning, he

AGASSI. A successful Hunks concert.

does not have a star complex. However, he does admit that there are times when he is not up to facing people and may not be in a good mood. "*Siyempre, pag* five days *ka nang walang tulog, pag kausap mo, matutulog-tulog na, medyo sumusungit, pero* it's because of the lack of sleep."

Carlos laments that even if he hasn't changed, some people automatically think that he is "unapproachable." "*Kahit na ganoon ka pa rin*, people think *na nagbago ka*, just because *nagkaroon ka ng* break. *Sila mismo iyung, 'Ay, di na 'to puede mag*-basketball *sa atin. Sikat na 'to.'* Friend *mo pa rin ako, sumikat man ako o hindi. Kung baga* I need you *nga, e*. You're my friends, you keep me sane, *di ba*?"

Carlos says he is very happy with his life now. It seems that everything he could ask for has been given to him on a silver platter. "My mom told me, '*Iyung mga* dreams *mo, pag sinasabi mo sa 'kin, tupad*!' *Kasi naman*, I live with the motto *na*, always give your best and God will do the rest. *Kung baga*, 99 percent perspiration and 1 percent inspiration. It's been working for me."

Director Rydell applied first-hand knowledge of his subject in 'James Dean' TV movie

BY BRIDGET BYRNE

LOS ANGELES—Mark Rydell, who directs the new biodrama "James Dean," knew its subject as a friend.

"He was as motivated and as ambitious a guy as I've ever met. Driven, driven," Rydell says.

Hollywood legend

Although Dean starred in only three major films—"East of Eden," "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Giant"—he became a Hollywood legend before he was killed at age 24 in a car crash on Sept. 30, 1955.

Rydell, now 67, says he was attracted to the movie "James Dean" because it enabled him to revisit an era of "idealism and passion" when "we were trying to become young artists."

Back in the 1950s, before either of their names were up in lights, aspiring actors Rydell and Dean hung out in New York bars, studied at the Actor's Studio, competed for roles. In 1953, they were cast as underage youths in a bar in an Omnibus teleplay, William Inge's "Glory and the Flower," starring Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy.

"I knew how tortured he was," says Rydell, who went on to direct for television and the movies, including "On Golden Pond," for which he was nominated for an Oscar.

Rydell says his own psychoanalysis gave him insight into Dean. He believes that Dean's estranged relationship with his father made him seek out father figures like director Elia Kazan.

"He was desperately in search of that kind of connection," says Rydell.

Theory

That theory gives the movie, scripted by Obie-winning playwright Israel Horovitz, "a spine and a climax" when added to the known facts of Dean's brief life, the director says.

"But the truth of it is, this is a not a documentary. It's a drama. As it says at the end of the show, it's an

RYDELL Educated guess.

educated guess," says Rydell, who thinks biographies without a point of view are tedious.

He considers it moot to discuss what Dean might have done had he lived; Rydell doubts Dean could have lived.

DEAN. Starred in only three major films.

"He was such a reckless person with his motorcycles, his bullfighting, his racing cars—testing the limits of every possible situation in an attempt to identify himself."

Horovitz's script was in development at Warner Bros. for years, and several stars, including Leonardo DiCaprio, toyed with the idea of playing Dean. In the end, the relatively unknown 23-year-old James Franco was selected. Michael Moriarty plays Dean's father, Winton.

Executive producer Bill Gerber, who took the project to TNT, says Rydell was chosen as director not because he knew Dean but because of his body of work.

"We vaguely knew there was some connection, but we didn't know they were pals."

Professional

Gerber describes Rydell as "an actors' director" and a "professional who doesn't waste a penny"—able to cram a first-class feature into a cable budget.

Rydell didn't mind the limitations of a $10.3 million project: "You have to invent. You have to be clever, you have to be creative . . . Theaters are rife with crap that costs a fortune."

Rydell, the son of a Wall Street stockbroker, studied music at Juilliard before segueing into acting. He's a firm believer in the Method, practiced by actors like Dean, who was "able to take the pain of his life and pour it into his work." *AP*

An actor must "stay in touch with the child within," Rydell says, since

THE festival winners, film directors Maurizio Sciarra from Italy, center, Alain Gomis, from France, right, and Peter Sehr, left from Germany, hold up the Pardi, or Leopard awards.

Italian film takes top Locarno festival prize

LOCARNO, Switzerland—The film "Alla Rivoluzione sulla due cavalli" (Towards the revolution in a 2CV) by Italian director Maurizio Scerra was awarded the top "Golden Leopard" award at the 54th Locarno international film festival on Sunday.

The jury's special prize went to "Delabaran" by Iranian director Abolfazl Jalili.

Young cinema category

Two Silver Leopard awards were given to French film-maker Alain Gomis' "L'Afrance" in the young cinema category and to "Love the Hard Way" by US director Peter Sehr, in the new cinema category.

The jury, mainly made up of women, also gave a "Bronze Leopard" prize to actress Kim Ho-Jung who starred in the Korean movie "Nabi," as well as to Italian actor Andoni Garcia, for "Alla Rivoluzione sulla due cavalli."

The jury also gave out four special distinctions to "Baby Boy" by US director John Singleton, "Dong Ci Bian Wei" by Hong Kong's Tong Hiu Pak, "Le lait de la tendresse humaine" (The Milk of Human Kindness) by Dominique Cabrera of France and "The Lawless Heart" by Britain's Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger.

Short films

In addition to the competition, the festival includes a section devoted to short and half-length films, with the "Golden Leopard for Video" going to "Late night talk with mother" by Czech Jan Nemec.

The jury's special distinction for video was awarded to "Bonne Nouvelle" (Good News) by Vincent Dieutre of France.

For the first time, the festival was headed by a woman, Irene Bignardi, a prominent film critic from Rome and a former Venice film festival organizer.

She said this year's event in Locarno would try to promote "innovative, young and sometimes 'risque'" cinema in the official competition. *AFP*

Jude Law plays celebrated Russian sniper

(Continuation)

THE STORYLINE of "Enemy at the Gates" continues:

Eventually trapped within Stalingrad and cut off from reinforcements and supplies by encircling Soviet forces, General Frederich von Paulus, commander in chief of the German forces, surrendered in February 1943, despite orders from Hitler to fight to the last man.

An estimated 800,000 Axis troops from Germany, Romania, Italy and Hungary, and untold numbers of anti-Communist Russians fighting on the German side had died. Approximately 1,100,000 Soviet soldiers lost their lives (many thousands executed by their own security police for supposed desertion or treason). Of the city's peacetime population of 500,000, only a few mote than 1,000 people remained at the end of the battle, the rest having fled or been killed.

It was the most disastrous military defeat in German history. Two entire armies—the Sixth and the Fourth Panzer—essentially disappeared, and the battle helped bleed the German military dry. It also galvanized the once pessimistic Soviet population, who began to believe that the war could be won, and it gave courage to resistance forces in other nations occupied by the Germans.

Account

Six years ago writer Alain Godard came to director Jean-Jacques Annaud with an account he had read in William Craig's book "Enemy at the Gates"—about a famous duel between a young Russian shepherd and a German nobleman during the Battle for Stalingrad.

To get to the heart of the story, Annaud and Godard began a journey of research that took them to Stalingrad—now named Volgograd—where they were given

LAW. Cast as Russian hero Vassili Zaitsev.

access to the original files of Vassili Zaitsev, the young Russian.

Accounts vary about the legend that grew up around Zaitsev—his duel with a German sniper, the existence of a Major Konig, his love affair with a female soldier.

The confrontation was reported in a large number of news articles and broadcast, but every description is different, and it is impossible to distinguish between fact and poetic license, between the reality and the myth.

Nearly 60 years after the Battle for Stalingrad, however, Zaitsev remains a national hero whose skill and courage as a sniper are indisputable. His image dominates the giant basrelief on the Memorial to the Heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad in Volgograd, his rifle is preserved in the city's Historical Museum, and the trophy of his victory—his German adversary's telescopic sight—is on display in the Armed Forces Museum in Moscow.

"Vassili" says Annaud, "was the perfect hero. He became a focus of propaganda and was said to have fallen in love with a female soldier in his division. The character of Konig, the German sharpshooter, is also heavily described in the Russian propaganda, although we found no documentation in Germany."

Duel

With the duel as the core, Annaud and Godard created a story about a group of people whose lives are intertwined for a brief moment in history.

"We have taken a historical event and tried to understand what happened in the hearts of people who lived through it" Annaud says. "We know about some of these characters from the archives and newsreel footage; the rest is open to interpretation. This is what made this story so fascinating and appealing.

"Enemy at the Gates is a film about duels and duality, about contrasts and extremes. The event is miniscule, but the propaganda makes it extremely important.

Two individuals track each other in the midst of millions who are dying, but the focus is on these two. The smallest part is only one little piece of the large canvas, but it consequently becomes the central symbol of the whole.

"I was very drawn to the idea of going from the extreme close-up to the extreme wide angle, of swapping the microscope for the telescope, of making an intimate film at the heart of a battle of epic proportions, of dealing with the art of patience in the context of extreme urgency, of seeing madness becoming the norm and everyday, mundane feelings taking the lead in extraordinary situations."

Love story

A major element of "Enemy at the Gates" is the love story between Vassili and Tania, a female soldier played by Rachel Weisz, and the resulting jealousy felt by Danilov.

The character is based on a real Tania, who fought as a soldier at Stalingrad and did, in fact, fall in love with. Vassili. The role underscores the indispensable contributions of Soviet women in the war.

Antiaircraft batteries at Stalingrad were operated by young women volunteers, who turned their guns against German ground forces and suffered terrible losses. Women composed a bomber regiment operating on the Stalingrad front.

They also made up the bulk of the medical orderlies, who fought the enemy while repeatedly risking their lives to drag wounded soldiers to safety.

In addition, tens of thousands of women worked in the factories making weapons and all the other goods needed for the war effort.

For the role of Vassili, Annaud chose Jude Law, a young actor who was soon to make such an impression with his Academy Awards nominated performance in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

"I saw an early cut of 'The Talented Mr. Ripley,'" Annaud recalls, "and I found Jude very charismatic. There is a fierce intelligence and liveliness in his eyes, yet he can be incredibly quiet and internal, and it was obvious from the start that he understood the character of Vassili."

For Law, the role of Vassili was the kind of character departure he had been seeking.

"This was such a good story and a type of film I had never been in before," he said. "It was so far removed from my character in Ripley and the beaches of southern Italy."

Law read avidly, viewed documentaries and researched that period of history. He also trained extensively to be proficient in the rifle techniques of the sniper.

"Vassili was a simple young man from the Urals who became a soldier who was recognized for his ability as a sharpshooter," Law says. "More important, he was singled out by the commissars and created into a hero of the people, although you are never quite sure how much of the myth that surrounds him is fact or spin.

"We certainly know a great deal of Vassili's achievements were true

JUDE/ P. D7

The Dawn reclaims its old glory

BY RICKY T. GALLARDO

A couple of months back, not a few people were surprised when The Dawn, the seminal rock band from the '80s, revisited the top of the charts and notched five straight weeks in NU 107's countdown by way of "I Saw You Coming In." The surprise hit song is a cut from their latest album under Sony Music, "Prodigal Sun."

Feat

Following a five-year lay-off and considering the hard times of an industry reeling from the worst slump in years, the feat was truly unprecedented.

"When we decided to call it quits five years ago, a lot of questions were left unanswered. The group had a lot of unresolved hang-ups—some personal, some stemming from a strategy-less plotting of our career.

"I guess that's why we're back: We want to find out if the music and fans we left behind still want us. We wanted to know if the group was still worth a second outing," says JB Leonor, The Dawn's guitarist.

Apparently all answers point to the positive. But this didn't happen without some hitches. "Our comeback was never a unanimous decision. Some members gave the idea a cold shoulder when it was initially brought up. After all, we had other priorities and resurrecting the band was not one of them.

Right thing

"Eventually, though, we realized that it was the right thing to do this because we still love making music. This is not just a reunion. We 're back for the long haul," bassist Francis Reyes, explains.

The return path was no field trip, too. Though The Dawn's comeback concert at the Music Museum early this year created a major buzz, the first single off their album, "Standing By Your Heart," had an ambivalent reception.

THE DAWN. Back for the long haul.

The song was only a mild pop hit if not a minor rock effort. Old fans were unsure of the band's new sound while disciples-to-be were holding on to more famous sounds and younger bands.

But "I Saw You Coming In" changed all that. "Some people were surprised by the success of the song, because it's not a tune that gratifies instantly. It's the kind that grows on you and stays there for a long time. But we always believed in the song. We can't explain why, but we knew it had magic," enthuses Jett Pangan, the lead vocalist.

Pile of money

That's why the band gets pissed off when some people refers to their return as a purely moneymaking scheme. "We are not here to make a pile of money and then leave again. Though we are not lying on a bed of cash, we can say that we can do without this and still be financially well-off," he adds.

The band also prides itself in its attempt to buck categories. Known to move along with the times, The Dawn has infused a lot of modern-day musical technology into this album without foregoing the sound they have carefully built up for themselves. The music we hear now is, in their words, " but a progression, a natural step forward."

And since they're certain of their acceptance, the members of The Dawn are steering their career somewhere they've never gone before. Aside from a mall tour that will take them around Manila and various points up north, the group is embarking on a U.S. trip (a first in their career) that will see them touch base with disciples in San Francisco, New York and Chicago.

To keep their fans in the know, the band has also set up their own website at www.thedawn.com.ph. For a send-off gift, The Dawn will be issuing a new single titled "Paano Naman Kami?"

Televiewers cite catchy TV commercials

BY RICA AREVALO

THE TARGET of TV commercials is to sell products. When the ad campaign is successful, tag lines are imprinted in people's minds, sales trends soar, and the product becomes part of our subconscious. This article is a continuing look at the young viewers' favorite commercials:

Concept

Theresa Austria, 19, Pandacan, Manila says, "Wherever I go, I hear children singing Joy Tissue's '*Sa bukid walang paper, Uy*!' I like the concept. It has no sense at all but I find it effective."

Kristine Arvee Basa, 19, of Novaliches, QC likes the Sky Flakes commercial, "*Buti na lang sa biskwit, hindi ka nagkakamali . . .*" It is about a man who wanted to get a tattoo of his lover's name, and a guy's name was written as his tattoo. "*Yung* guy, *maski nagpalit ng gusto* niya—girl or guy, sa brand ng *biskwit, hindi pa rin siya nagpapalit.*"

"I like the monks eating Carl's Jr. burgers while praying," says Jean Carol Lee, 19, of Bacoor, Cavite. 'It is so irreverent. I love the tag line, 'If you can have seriously charbroiled burgers in this lifetime, who cares about reincarnation?'"

Story

Public relations student Myrene Dotollo is partial to the new Zest-O commercial. "I like it not because of Jolina but because of the story. *Ipinakita dito yung* respect *sa* teacher and *ang* cute *ng bata nung hindi siya nabigyan ng* Zest-O. The concern for family and friendship is very evident."

For Sil Marie Suelto, 17, of Tondo, Manila PLDT's "Dad, *mag*-shi-shift *na ko sa* Fine Arts . . ." arouses the sympathy of viewers. "It is effective. The dialect symbolizes the distance between the father and son. Despite the distance, they patch things up because of PLDT!"

McDonald's "Unbelievable" teacher-student campaign registers well with Loreian Marquez. "Unbelievable *talaga na magbigay ng sagot ang isang* teacher *sa* exams. *Kaya nakakagulat rin na yung presyo ng* McFlurry *ay naging* P20 *na lang. Hindi kilala yung* commercial models *pero magaling silang umarte.*"

Ritzelle Sanchez, 19, finds the Snapple commercial really cool: "When the pathetic lad rides a subway, two gangsters squeeze him, then when he goes to order, his burger looks messy. When he arrives home, his parents are fighting. At last, when he goes to the supermarket, he sees a variety of Snapple—*now* he has a choice."

There was no dialogue, only the tagline at the end, "There are some things you can't choose, but at least you can choose Snapple."

Perfect place

Grace Arato of Muntinlupa City comments, "A couple got a new Philips Flat TV. They were trying to put it in a perfect place. In the end, they decided to put it on the ceiling. I like the jingle, it's very catchy. The models are goodlooking. Who in his right mind would buy an expensive flat TV and put it on a ceiling?—but the idea is charming!"

Ma. Leonor Zaide, 19, likes the Dairy Crème commercial about a boy who threw bread outside the window but it was thrown back because it had no Dairy Creme. "The commercial is interesting because it is humorous. I love it when the boy outside the window says, '*Hoy, walang* Dairy Creme.' I think the quote, '*Pag binato ka ng bato, batuhin mo ng tinapay,*' has been literally shown in this commercial."

Zarvin Sacdalan can relate to Coca-Cola's "*Kaibigan lang . . . malay mo!*" TV ad. "Usually *kasi, ang mga* guys *kahit paano ay nade*-develop *sa isa niyang barkada, pero tinitiis na lang nilang hawag sabihin para hindi masira ang* friendship."

Other Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize laureates cited for their important contributions

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

TWO weeks ago, the organizers of the 12th Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes announced that Filipino filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya was one of its four awardees this year. Today, let's focus on the three other outstanding Asians who have also been named laureates for the 2001 edition of the prizes:

Founder

The Grand Prize has been awarded to Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh for Poverty Eradication. As a founder of the Grameen (rural)

YUJIRO. Academic Prize for Development Economics.

YUNUS. Grand Prize for Poverty Eradication.

Bank, Yunus was able to realize his idea for creative small loans with no mortgage for poor village women in Bangladesh.

The leading "practical economist" has challenged standard notions of development in his drive to help eradicate poverty. Under his initiative, "micro-credit" has won international acclaim and is practiced in more than 60 countries.

After college in Bangladesh, Yunus went to the United States for further studies. In 1969, he taught economics at Middle Tennessee State University. In 1972, he returned to Bangladesh to contribute what he could to the reconstruction of his native country.

Deputy chief

He was made deputy chief of the General Economics Division of the Planning Commission. But, when cyclones devastated Bangladesh in 1974, Yunus saw how the resulting famine had made life extremely difficult for the poor, who had to borrow from usurers to keep from starving.

He then decided to come up with new strategies and to help his poor countrymen by way of small loans with no mortgage. What he found was that women with loans could create new sources of income and small business opportunities. The movement has grown exponentially through the years, and has helped a total of 2.4 million people in 40,000 villages.

The Academic Prize has been awarded to Hayami Yujiro of Japan for Development Economics. Hayami is a leading Asian economist who has created "Hayami Development Economics," a academic discipline that incorporates the perspective of the community and its relationship to the market and the state.

Surveys

Of particular interest to us is the fact that Hayami's approach was derived from surveys of conditions in agricultural villages in the Philippines. Hayami's theories have contributed greatly to policy research for development throughout the world by providing an innovative guide for developing and developed countries alike.

Among his many achievements, Hayami received the Nikkei Prize for his excellent books in economic science, and the NIRA Tohata Memorial Award for policy studies from Japan's National Institute for Research Advancement.

He has also lectured extensively as visiting professor in the United States, in academic institutions like Yale University, Cornell University and the University of Minnesota.

Buddhist perspective

Finally, the Arts and Culture Prize is conferred on visual artist Thawan Duchanee of Thailand. Duchanee's art is rooted in a unique Buddhist perspective. His paintings variously depict the insanity, degradation, violence and eroticism lurking in the

DUCHANEE. Arts and Culture Prize.

heart of modern man.

Duchanee studied at Silpakorn University under the Italian painter, Corrado Feroci, known as the father of modern Thai art. He went on to study in the Netherlands from 1964 to 1968. After returning to Thailand, he started painting in his unique combination of western style and Thai themes.

His powerful and controversial style combines grotesque and erotic human figures that are composites of animals and insects, entwined with Buddha as a saint.

The Thai artist has held solo exhibits in various Asian countries, Australia, West Germany and Great Britain. He has also developed his abilities in architecture, and as a master sculptor.

Dead but born again

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

MANY years ago, I was drawn to a born-again spiritual adviser. Curious about whether good people automatically went to heaven when they died, I asked her where she thought my mother was. She inquired if my mom was born-again, to which I replied in the negative. Her next words hurt me beyond repair: "Your mother is not in heaven. Right now, she is floating. She is in limbo." I never went to her after that.

Solemnity

Another time, a show biz person asked me with all the solemnity she could muster, "Inday, are you born-again?" By way of a reply, I told her, "My name is Lourdes. My mother gave me that name in honor of Mama Mary." Her shocking retort to me was: "Inday, you are doomed." I laughed.

Indeed, the words of some of these Christians are so un-Christian. Without the right combination of wisdom, sensitivity and correct sense of stewardship, these self-righteous peddlers of salvation can lose a lot of people for God.

Truth to tell, born-again Christians can either be a source of inspiration or disillusionment. The way they live their lives can either be the yardstick for moral rectitude or the model of spiritual duplicity.

Indeed, there are born-again leaders who really exude the spiritual anointing that God has bestowed upon them. But then, there are also those who dip their fingers in the hard-earned money of their church as if it were their personal funds; abuse the obedience of their community for personal gain; possess egos that are bigger than their God, and live their lives in complete contradiction of what they preach.

Inspired

I'm very impressed and inspired whenever I encounter Christians who live out the gospel of Christ in their day-to-day existence. Humility defines them. They love not just the lovable but especially the unlovable. They live simply and austerely. For them, trials and tribulations are blessings, opportunities to actively prove their love for God.

One such is Pastor Ruben de la Cruz of Bacoor, Cavite, founder of the Katiwala ng Diyos ministry. He is the pastor who regularly preaches in the Wednesday prayer meeting organized by Fanny Serrano in his house attended by his friends and clients form show biz and business circles.

When he speaks, Pastor Ruben captivates his audience. He doesn't use high-powered words. He doesn't possess the fire-and-brimstone eloquence of other evangelists. But those of us who faithfully listen to his preachings believe in the gifts of wisdom, prophecy and healing that the Lord has blessed him with.

Tragedy

My already very high regard for Pastor Ruben soared even more last week when his eldest son, Manny, died. His reaction to the tragedy, which proved his total surrender to the divine will, was truly admirable and inspiring.

Backgrounder: Manny was riding on his tricycle in Imus, Cavite when a truck bumped his vehicle, throwing him out a few meters away. The truck driver backed up and ran over him.

(I really don't know how true this is but talk during the wake had it that some truck drivers are instructed to kill the people they injure on the road. This is ostensibly because the insurance premium for the dead is cheaper and less stressful than if one were to pay for the hospital bills, rehabilitation and therapy expenses, damages and legal fees of a road accident survivor.)

I was totally devastated when I heard the news. The guy was 24 years old, too young to die. He left behind a young family. And my heart bled for Pastor Ruben. He didn't just lose a son (which was painful enough) but also a co-worker in the Lord's vineyard—because he was grooming his son to follow in his footsteps.

When I went to the wake, questions hounded my mind. How would Pastor Ruben take this major tragedy in his life? Would he forsake God for allowing this to happen to him? Would he feel betrayed by the God he has so faithfully served with all his heart?

Triumphant

Contrary to the macabre mood that traditionally attends occasions like this, the wake for Pastor Ruben's son was joyful—even triumphant and victorious. And Pastor Ruben himself exuded a serenity that came from the peace that continues to reside in his heart, despite the tragedy that has befallen him.

Asked how the seemingly meaningless death of his son has affected his faith, he smiled. "God has taken my son, but I won't allow Satan to take my soul because of it. Satan is very angry right now because this tragedy has even strengthened my faith and trust in God."

There was a voice inside me that refused to swallow such "simplistic" explanations. Like, is this the reward one gets for one's faith? And, if such tragedies can be allowed to happen to God's faithful servants, they can also be allowed to happen to oftentimes unfaithful me! Scary thought, huh?

"The closer one gets to God, the bigger the trials that Satan puts in his way," Pastor Ruben replied with his trademark soft-spoken voice. "Peter was nailed on a cross upside down. Paul and James were beheaded. Bartholomew was skinned alive. John was thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil. God only took my son from me. Who am I to question the infinite wisdom of the Lord?"

Answers

The stubborn side of me still cried out for answers. But then, no answer could ever suffice at this point that I'm still struggling with my faith. One thing's for sure, though: My faith in God is a little bigger now than before Manny died. He may be dead but, most assuredly, he has already been born again—in heaven.

(Today, Manny will be laid to rest. I pray that his soul rests in peace even as his senseless death still cries out for justice. I commend Imus, Cavite Mayor Homer Saquilayan and Imus-PNP Chief of Police Capt. Eduardo Evangelista-Untalan because I'm confident that they will do everything possible to solve this case at the soonest possible time.)

Jude Law . . . (From page D6)

and have been documented," Law continues. "What we have done is to look at him as an individual, as a man in the midst of chaos and carnage.

Pawns

This film is really about men being used as pawns. So many men died in so many nasty situations in this siege, and it points out not only the scale of the war, but the loss of human life at the most personal level."

Joseph Fiennes was chosen for the role of Danilov, the political officer and propagandist who discovers Vassili's amazing talent as a sniper and builds him into a national hero. Danilov also becomes Vassili's rival for the love of a young female soldier.

"Danilov lives very much in his head and in his books," says Fiennes. "It's a lesson to us all to get involved in reality and not just observe life, to actually live and breathe it. This is one of the downfalls and tragedies of Danilov and was an aspect I was drawn to.

"The epic scale of the story is very much the backdrop to a far more intimate tale. I think the marriage between the two is where the potency and the dynamic of the story lie."

For the role of Tania, the producers needed an actress who could be feminine and attractive yet believable when she picked up a gun. They chose Rachel Weisz.

"Tania is a woman of strength and integrity," Weisz says. "She starts off not knowing what it would be like in battle. Hers is a journey of experience. She volunteers to protect her community. She meets Danilov, the commissar who wants to protect her, but she is also attracted to Vassili and his natural instinctive relationship to the world."

The role of Konig, the aristocratic Nazi sharpshooter, went to Academy Awards nominee Ed Harris.

Menace

Executive producer Alisa Tager recalls: "When Ed first came on set, we had been shooting six weeks. One of the first shots was a close-up of his eyes, and for all of us it felt like the movie had come together. Suddenly, with Ed's remarkable eyes, the menace of the piece had arrived."

"The character of Konig," Harris explains, "is perceived more as a presence. He is a man on a mission. The center of our story is the duel between Vassili and Konig. It is in the nature of the duel that they don't see each other. *(To be concluded)*

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Five Questions for Lauren Hutton

LAUREN Hutton now uses a cane and walks slowly, with a limp she'll likely have for life. AP

By Kim Curtis

SAN FRANCISCO—Three middle-aged men peer around the corner—beaming. "We're just gawking," one quickly confesses.

Lauren Hutton flashes her famous gap-toothed grin. "I'm very flattered. Really."

At 57, Hutton looks much younger. She's tanned, thin and wears little makeup.

Gateway

She explains that she grew up in Florida's "deeply working class," so she headed to New York in the mid-1960s believing it would be her gateway to the world. She became a model and soon landed a groundbreaking $200,000 annual contract with Revlon.

Hutton has since appeared on more than two dozen Vogue magazine covers and in nearly 50 films, most notably 1980's "American Gigolo" with Richard Gere.

Last October, she nearly died in a motorcycle crash near Las Vegas. Hutton was on a 100-mile (160-kilometer) ride by the Guggenheim Motorcycle Club with other celebrities, including Dennis Hopper and Jeremy Irons.

She crashed while going more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) per hour. Her right leg was broken into pieces, and it is now held together by titanium rods and screws. Her right arm also is held together by metal.

Hutton uses a cane and walks slowly, with a limp she'll likely have for life. But she was in good spirits during a recent visit to San Francisco, where she was the host of a World Wildlife Fund benefit.

Riding buddies

She credits her friends, including riding buddies Irons and Laurence Fishburne, with getting her through the tough times.

"They listened to me cry and howl and carry on for hours," she says.

What did you learn from your accident?

Hutton: If I ride again, I will never ride again if I have a bad feeling. I felt bad about it from the beginning and I knew something was off and I just shouldn't have gone. I'll listen to my instincts a little more.

Did you believe you were going to die?

I was too drugged up most of the time to think about that. My friends all thought I was going to die. They all thought I was dead. You can tell by people looking at you in a way that no one's ever looked at you. I knew it was bad.

When you first started modeling, you were pressured to close the gap between your front teeth. Why didn't you fix them?

I liked my teeth. Besides, I had already gotten mortician's wax to fill the gap. And when I got money I had them make a little thing that had a line down the middle of it so it was a permanent little thing and I wore that lots of times.

Orthodontist

I could get the all-American, perfect tooth, upper-middle class, orthodontist look if I wanted. So I didn't see why I had to bash my teeth around and turn them into a pair of Chicklets.

You've had a lifelong fascination with Africa. Where did that come from?

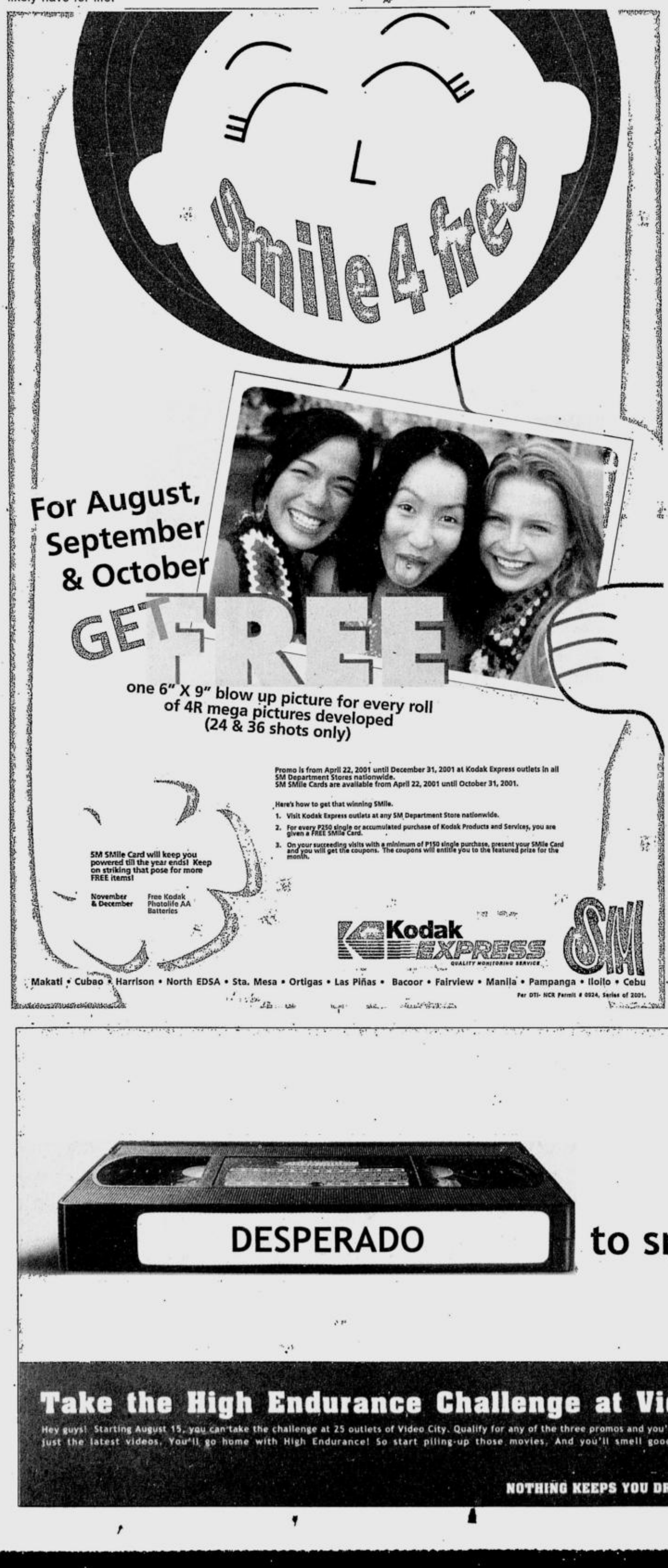
Tarzan. I saw Tarzan movies as a kid and I thought they were the first intelligent adults I had ever seen in my life. They didn't wear clothes. They wore paint and feathers and shells and they swung through trees and they had fun.

I thought these people were something else. They got to hang out with great animals all day, talk to them, live good lives, have fun, swing around in the jungle and that's what I wanted.

And you fell in love with the country?

One of the great things that I've loved about Africa is it made me feel normal. When the plane door opened to Nairobi in 1967, I just felt like I'd come home. When you're out there for a while and you're just living in the bush with animals, you start feeling like one of many different animals.

You know you've got a lot of things they don't have, but they've got a lot of things you don't have and you get this balance. As soon as you come back, the balance goes and you feel incredibly lopsided because the things you've got to watch out for is a car hitting you on the sidewalk, not an angry buffalo running to dinner. *AP*



Was Bridget Jones right?

"BRIDGET Jones's Diary" has had the most successful opening of any British film, taking seven million sterling pounds over the weekend. And it has sparked a debate that is dividing the country's women—are you a Daniel Cleaver or a Mark Darcy girl?

The contenders are sensitive but dull Darcy, played by Colin Firth, and Hugh Grant's sexy but unfaithful Cleaver. So, which one should Renee Zellweger's Bridget have chosen as her boyfriends? Here The Mirror's Tanith Carey and Claire Raymond give their verdicts.

FROM left, Colin Firth, Renee Zellwegger and Hugh Grant star in "Bridget Jones's Diary."

Hidden depths

I love Colin: Clare Raymond tells why Colin Firth's Mark is for her.

Mark Darcy has hidden depths—which is why he is my winner in the bottle of the boyfriends. At first he doesn't seem to have much going for him when Bridget meets him at the turkey buffet. He is rude, insulting stand-offish in his garish reindeer jumper—a Christmas present from his mum. He couldn't have looked less fanciable.

On the other hand Bridget's boss Daniel Cleaver—with his sports car and witty e-mails—seems sexy, exciting, funny, smart and charming. But it's not long before Cleaver's true self shows through—he is a selfish cheating, unfeeling bastard. Darcy emerges as the strong, silent, brooding hero who rescues Bridget from singledom. It takes the entire movie for Bridget and Darcy to get together—and in that time he managed to win my heart, too.

Rich parents

At the start of the film she hates him so much she writes about it in her diary. But that just makes for terrific sexual tension. And Darcy has everything going for him. He is very goodlooking and a fantastic snogger—he even has rich parents with a huge country house to inherit.

Not only that, he is a great cook. When Bridget's culinary skills fail her at her birthday meal, he arrives like a knight in shining armor and takes over in the kitchen. As if it couldn't get any better, he is also a successful lawyer. Yet he puts his woman before his job, giving up an amazing opportunity to work in America to stay in England to be with Bridget.

And when she messes up in her new job as a TV news reporter, Darcy saves the day by fixing up an exclusive interview with one of his clients. He doesn't want to change Bridget, either.

"I like you just the way you are. Cigarettes, Chardonnay, cellulite and all," he tells her. We don't see them have sex, but you just know that when they do, it will have been worth the wait. He is aloof, confident, clever and seemingly unattainable, which makes him even more attractive.

But best of all, when the rivals throw punches in a full blown first fight over Bridget, it's Darcy who wins the day and there's absolutely nothing boring about that!

Two questions

I love Hugh: Tanith Carey would rather have Hugh Grant's Daniel.

When I came out of the screening of "Bridget Jones's Diary," there were two questions on my mind. Why did Bridget choose a wet blanket like Mark Darcy? And, most pressing of all, was there any man alive who sums up the meaning of the world SEX as much as Daniel Cleaver? Yes, Cleaver is a complete bastard. He strings poor Bridget along, smirks and says nothing when she blurts out she loves him. Then he two-times her with a stick—thin model who would make Elle Macpherson paranoid. But, in the mind of a woman, things are never quite that simple, are they?

There is a big difference between the man and you want and the man who is really good for you. First, let me say that I never expected to find any character played by Hugh Grant remotely attractive . God, how bored I was of all that bumbling fogginess.

But here, you suspect, you are getting the real Hugh Grant: dangerous brutish, selfish, sexual. There's not stammer or a pastry torso in sight as he shows off a discretely toned, lightly tanned body in a series of rather cool shirts and even cooler sunglasses.

Then, just as you think your adoration couldn't get any greater, he tops it all by falling into a pond—quite simply, he looks so perfect it hurts. Mark Darcy, on the other hand, is just plain wet.

Saturday SPECIAL

JASON Biggs stars anew in his debut film's sequel.

'American Pie 2' on top but summer movies are cooling fast

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

LOS ANGELES—"American Pie 2" debuted at the top of the box office with $45.1 million this weekend, but how long will this pastry stay hot?

The summer movie season has been filled with blockbuster opening weekends, only to have revenue frequently drop by more than half the next week.

Losing interest

Audiences are losing interest unusually fast.

Last week, "Rush Hour 2" opened at No. 1 with $67.4 million, the best August opening in film history.

But it lost more than half its audience this week, earning only $33.1 million. If the summer trend holds, the Jackie Chan-Chris Tucker comedy could

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Gaisano Mall of Davao - Third Floor
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April Buted, Gingging Zaragoza, Lexy P. Chung, Manjo M. Montecillo, Victoria S. Corpin

Festival Supermall Third Level
Annie M. Tumbaga, Maridoth C. Panganiban, Melonie B. Cruz, Monnet Hernandez, Nonie Rivera, Richard J. Soloveres

Pavilion Mall, Biñan Laguna - Ground Floor
Arlyn Catacutan, Cristelda S. Blanla, Julie M. Lubnm, Luisa P. Traigo, Marilou A. Bon, Carmelita Mabansag, Emma Yambao, Lorna E. Avalan, Marcel E. Rodriguez, Manz Solomon

SM Megamall, Bldg. B - 5th Floor
Cristina M. Calderon, Geraldine Bañez, Malou Garcia, Usin T. Arabia, Eloisa N. Lorenzana, Kathleen Ferrer, Monalisa A. Cartalla, Zanna O. Dela Rosa

Makati - La'O Bldg., Pasay Road
Almalyn D. Rojo

Robinsons Cainta Marcos Highway
Jean Mendoza

SM City North Edsa Annex - Basement
Beverly Chan, Janette D. Banaria, Jocelyn T. Cruz, Lisena M. Lanajan, Pamela Elcano, Rebecca Baldedara

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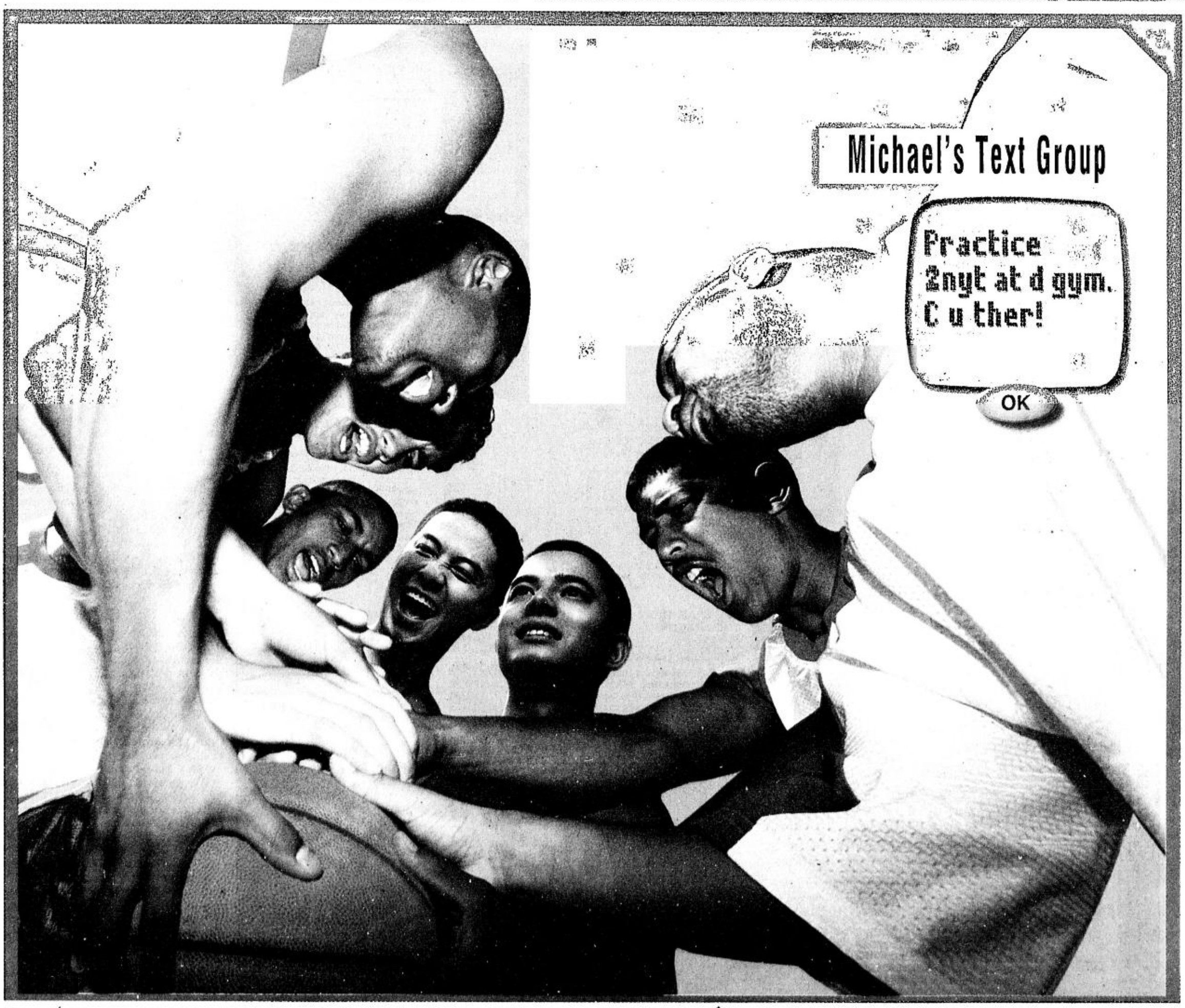


Why 'Shrek' is a winner

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

IS IT true that DreamWorks/ PDI's "Shrek" has earned a whopping $250 M at the tills to date? That makes it the second most profitable animated feature production of all time, right behind the longtime frontrunner, Disney's "The Lion King."

What is it about "Shrek" that has made it such a runaway winner? Other new cartoon features like "Final Fantasy," "Rugrats in Paris" and "Atlantis" have also done well at the box office, but "Shrek" has been running circles around them.

Answers

The answers to that question will be ours to arrive at soon, because "Shrek" is slated to be shown here next week. But here's an advance view of the film's most outstanding plus factors:

It's both traditional and trendy. It's set in a fantasy never-never land, but it's peopled by mod, lively characters with more than a dash of irreverence to them. That combination makes them appealing to little kids, teenagers and even adults alike.

This ability to appeal to many kinds of audiences has added greatly to the movie's box office receipts, thus enabling it to earn more than even such big animated hits as "Toy Story."

The film combines comedy, heart and a strong plea for self-acceptance. It's an unbeatable combination because it assures viewers that, when they see the movie, they will have a lot of fun, empathize with the main characters' feelings *and* learn something that can make them better people, to boot.

It has a gifted, enthusiastic cast of voice actors. The stars who voice the major roles in "Shrek" support the production's trailblazing efforts in the field of animation with their spirited vocal performances.

Title character

The title character, an ogre with a sensitive nature, is voiced by comedian Mike Myers. Eddie Murphy is his donkey-sidekick, Cameron Diaz is Princess Fiona, and John Lithgow is the pint-sized villain, Lord Farquaad.

The movie spoofs fairytale conventions. Viewers chortle with delight as the production pokes fun at a number of familiar cartoons and fairytale characters. This sassy approach clicks particularly well with young viewers, especially teenagers, who just love it when heretofore "serious" characters are turned on their ear.

"Shrek" features some amazing breakthroughs in computer animation. It is one of only a few animated features to "dare" to animate realistic human characters (like Princess Fiona and Lord Farquaad) who are able to express both dialogue and emotion through a complex facial animation system that had to be specially developed for this film at PDI.

Special tools

Using special tools called "Shapers," the animators were able to achieve sophisticated facial and body movements by animating interacting layers of bone, muscle, fat, skin, hair and clothing!

The film also scores breakthroughs in the creation of rich, organic environments; clothing that moves, wrinkles and reacts to light like real fabrics; fire, and fluids of various viscosities, achieved through PDI's Fluid Animation System, a process that is so innovative that it's even been honored with an award.

SHREK. The film's title character is voiced by Mike Myers.

All of these advances make the images in "Shrek" more believable and visually dynamic than most, and viewers have been quick to show their appreciation for DreamWorks/ PDI's innovativeness by enthusiastically viewing the film—and endorsing it to their friends.

Anna Fegi launches bar tour Aug. 25

EVEN as her first single "You and I" from her debut album under BMG Records Pilipinas makes headway on the airwaves, Anna Fegi embarks on a bar tour titled after her album "Anna Fegi: Every Step of The Way" at Rembrandt Hotel's Downtown Lounge, Aug. 25, 9 p.m. Produced by Paparazzi Productions, the show will feature songs from the 12-cut album as well as standards, RnB, and revivals.

Two revivals

The album, composed mostly of English originals, has two revivals "Anyone can See" and "I Need You," two Tagalog songs "Babalik ka Ba" and "Di Ako Iiyak," a duet with Christian Wunderlich "Two Hearts Can Beat as One," and "You and I" composed by Louie Ocampo and arranged by Jay Durias.

Anna says, "This album is the fulfillment of a dream. When I went to Manila to try my luck without knowing anyone in the business here, I only had one goal—to have an album of my own, and to hear my own songs played over the radio. Now the dream has come true, and I can't tell you how happy I am!"

Ballad

Before she enchanted this year's Metropop public with her interpretation of the soothing ballad "Destiny," she made it as People's Choice awardee in ABS-CBN'S Himig Handog last year with the song "Larawan," and years before that was member of Ryan Cayabyab's Smokey Mountain, figuring in the group's Japan tour in 1994.

Pop legend Rico J. Puno guests in "Anna Fegi: Every Step of the Way," with world class musician Toti Fuentes as musical director. Puno, known as the Total Performer, attained great success in the '70s with signature hits like "Love Won't Let me Wait" and "Alaala," his version of Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were."

Fuentes shuttles between the USA and Manila playing for such big names as Tony Orlando, Julia Fordham, Peabo Bryson. He is set to go on tour with the legendary Andy Williams.

A talent of Bibsy Carballo, Anna can be booked through 7267164. Tickets for "Anna Fegi: Every Step of the Way" are available at Hotel Rembrandt. Sponsors for the show are International Distillers Philippines and BMG.

FEGI. Dream fulfilled.

Hits and misses in Cebu

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

MY trip to Cebu a few weeks ago truly surprised me. I learned that there is great hope for our country's prosperity. If our brothers from the Visayas can do it, so can we! I believe tourism still plays a major role in uplifting the economy. And a major part of tourism success is good food. In Cebu, I discovered a new restaurant that served one of the most delicious *lechons* I've tasted.

Awards

My cousin Joey insisted we try a new Singaporean restaurant near the airport. I ignored him at first because I was set on trying this Italian restaurant near the old bridge. As soon as we entered, we were met by an old Italian gentleman who bragged about how delicious his cooking was, and showed us a few awards he had won. I thought, "A bit arrogant, but I like that".

Feeling we had made the right choice, I ordered a lot of dishes. After sampling them, however, I couldn't understand how he won those awards. I made a mental note to stay away next visit.

Embarassed, I suggested to Joey we try the Singaporean restaurant I had previously ignored. I could not believe how good the food was.

Most of the items were new to me and they were just superb. We had the Bah Ku The, which is the Singaporean version of pork spareribs *sinigang*. With plenty of steamed rice, this is a glimpse of heaven!

We also had the satay mix of beef and chicken. Authentic and delicious!

Yummy

The Singaporen Chicken Rice was also yummy. We had the Chili Crab, too. It was good but I've had better. The Mee Goreng, chili noodles, was superb! There was only one dessert available which they call Bobo Chacha. It is similar to our *halu-halo* and it is also name-forgetting! A branch of this place will surely be a hit here. *Maraming restautant ang tatalunin nito. Mura pa.*

The place is called Rasa Marina and it is at the food center on Airport rd. near the airport. A must-try place. Tel. 341 3093-94 or cell 0917 607 4079.

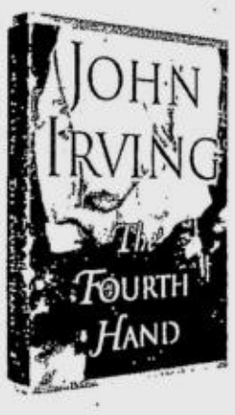
After that Singaporean meal, I brought home a whole authentic Cebu *lechon*. A friend, Ina Choa, said it's the best in Cebu. She's right! We had it in the evening when we arrived, a good eight to 10 hours after it was roasted, and it was still crunchy. It was also beyond description. *Ang sarap!* No need to dip it in sauce, it was already so tasty. Try *calamansi* as a dipping sauce—I learned this from my Ilocano friends. And it can now be ordered in Manila. It's called Rico's Lechon. Call area code 32 Tel. 344 0119. Rico has made special arrangements with PAL so it can be brought in through them. Talk to Rico.

I had a great week in Cebu. Attractions such as these help make Cebu what it is today. Let's hope it rubs off on the rest of the country, including our politicians.

Happy Eating!

HOT PICKS

AUGUST



THE FOURTH HAND
John Irving
P 999.00

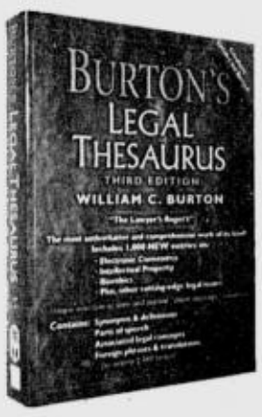
The accident of a New York journalist who gets his left hand eaten off by a lion as millions of TV viewers watch sets off a web of stories all linked to helping the journalist get a new hand. From the recently-divorced surgeon to a Wisconsin wife volunteering her husband's left hand as donor, this almost satirical novel explores the power of second chances and the will to change.

UNDERDOGS IN OVERDRIVE
Ilyas Khan
P 839.00

This is an inspirational guide for Asia's budding technopreneurs. Based on the author's own experiences in the region's dynamic technology sector, *Underdogs in Overdrive* provides tomorrow's winners with the basic building blocks to harness their entrepreneurial flair.

THE RULES FOR MARRIAGE
Ellen Fein & Sherrie Schneider
P 635.00

Get realistic solutions and advice on making your marriage work and last forever. This rulebook will guide you as you prepare to tie the knot or even if you're already traveling the road of marriage.



BURTON'S LEGAL THESAURUS, 3rd ed.
William C. Burton
P 765.00

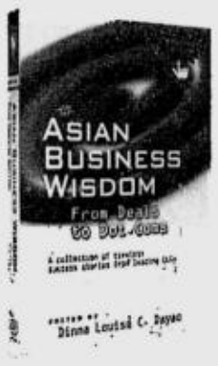
Also known as the "Lawyer's Roget's," this thesaurus is the most authoritative and comprehensive resource for legal terms. Includes 1,000 new entries on bioethics, intellectual property, and more!

CODE TO ZERO
Ken Follett
P 319.00

On a perfectly sunny day, the Explorer I satellite's launch is delayed due to an excuse about the weather. The real reason for the delay rests deep in the mind of a NASA scientist who has awoken to discover his memory completely erased. Now he must find the clues to his own identity as well as the dark secret many want him to forget.

THE MARIAN CONSPIRACY
Graham Phillips
P 409.00

This real-life historical detective story tackles what really happened to the Virgin Mary after the crucifixion, the real identity of Jesus' father, and the link between the Holy Grail story and the location of Mary's final resting place.

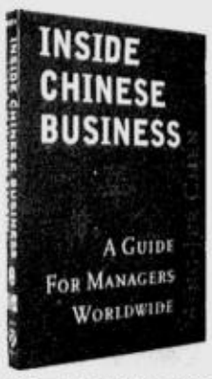


ASIAN BUSINESS WISDOM: From Deals to Dot.Coms
Ed. Dinna Louise C. Dayao
P 669.00

A collection of 31 articles designed to give you an inside look into the key decision points, breakthrough insights, and proven strategies of some of the region's leading CEOs. The articles are organized into five categories covering success principles, corporate culture, entrepreneurship, tough business challenges, and marketing and customer service.

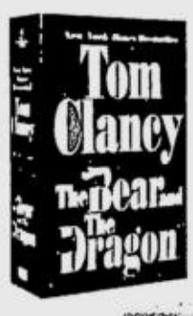
UNDER GOD'S WINGS
Candy Chand
P 409.00

This collection of true-to-life stories provides shining examples of ordinary people meeting and conquering life's challenges through the power of their belief. The beautifully written and wonderfully moving stories will remind you of the power of faith in action, and the power of God's love to make miracles happen in today's world.



INSIDE CHINESE BUSINESS
Ming-Jer Chen
P 525.00

An indispensable book for any Western enterprise that wants to prosper in business with Chinese societies across the globe. *Inside Chinese Business* explains Chinese culture, attitudes, mores, and business philosophy.

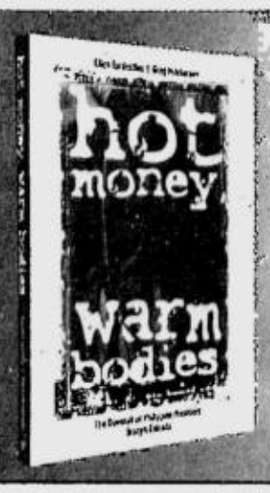


THE BEAR AND THE DRAGON
Tom Clancy
P 319.00

Jack Ryan has recently been elected President of the United States. Already, it's not just matters of state that are his concern. Things are heating up in Russia and China, and pressure is on Jack as he tries to stop what might be the end of the world as we know it.

SMALL MIRACLES FOR WOMEN
Yitta Halberstam & Judith Leventhal
P 409.00

This enlightening collection of true experiences of some very special women will make you believe in the power of miracles.



Hot Book of the Month!

HOT MONEY, WARM BODIES
Ellen Tordesillas & Greg Hutchinson
P 275.00

The impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada made jurors of us all and set the stage for People Power 2. *Hot Money, Warm Bodies* gives a behind-the-scenes account of those momentous days in January 2001, as well as the events that paved the way for the downfall of a popular but tainted president.

National Book Store
www.nationalbookstore.com

'American Pie 2'

• • • (From page E1)

drop by another 50 percent next week.

Director Tim Burton's remake of "Planet of the Apes" boasted $68.5 million when it opened in the top spot three weeks ago.

That number plummeted 60 percent in its second week, and another 52 percent this week.

Although it's not unusual for ticket sales to drop off in the weeks after a film debuts, the crowded marketplace this year has exacerbated the falls.

Analyst

"It used to be that studios would space the big blockbusters out two or three weeks from each other," said Robert Bucksbaum, a box-office analyst for Reel Source Inc. "Increasingly, it's just one big film right after another, and each weekend has a different No. 1 movie."

Other films to drop by more than 50 percent in their second weeks of release include "Jurassic Park III," "The Mummy Returns," "Scary Movie 2" and "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider."

"There's no doubt this has a negative effect on theater owners . . . There has been a fairly dramatic shift in the so-called 'legs' of movies this summer," said John F. Fithian, president of the National Association of Theatre Owners trade group.

Last year, films like "What Lies Beneath," "The Perfect Storm" and "Gladiator" lingered among the top 10 highest-grossing films for several weeks after their debuts.

In the early 1990s, most films only dropped by one-third in their second weeks—not one-half. But there were far fewer than the current 38,000 screens in the United States at that time.

Many cineplexes now have enough room for multiple screenings of a film on the opening weekend, which means audiences are assured of seeing a movie in its first days of release, rather than having to wait until the next weekend.

Movies also come to home video faster than ever before, so many moviegoers unwilling to attend on opening weekend have less time to wait before screening it at home, Bucksbaum added.

Effects

Higher ticket prices have shielded studios from the effects of moviegoer abandonment at theaters, particularly since most get a larger share of the opening weekend earnings than they do from follow-up weeks.

"The upside of having many successful movies is that admissions are up 4 percent and box office grosses are up 8 percent. The downside is that the movies don't seem to last as long as they used to," Fithian said.

Theater owners suffer when audiences quickly lose interest in a movie, since they earn a larger percentage of the gross in the later weeks of a film's release. It can take a month after a movie opens for studios and theaters to get to the point where they are splitting earnings evenly.

Loews Cineplex and Carmike Cinema have both filed for bankruptcy protection and blamed their revenue troubles on the shorter earning-span for movies.

Cinemas make most of their money from sleeper hits like "Legally Blonde" and "The Fast and the Furious" or blockbusters like "Shrek," that keep drawing audiences.

"It's certainly true that the longer a movie lasts, the better it is for (cinema) owners," Fithian said. *AP*

10 YEARS AGO

New talents, movies made their mark

BY NOELANI TORRE

THREE of the shining new stars of the music industry 10 years ago were Geneva Cruz and Samantha Chavez in the local scene, and Danni Minogue (Kylie's little sister) in the international arena.

Famous

Geneva made the headlines because of her winning the grand prize in the Voice of Asia International Pop Music and Song Festival held in the Soviet Union (as that geographical area was then called) and she had been famous before that as the only female member of "Smokey Mountain." Critics and producers alike had pegged her as "star material" from the start and they predicted that she was going to be "another Sharon Cuneta."

Now she's gotten married and separated, and she's become a mother (a lot can happen in 10 years). And it doesn't look like she's going to be the next Sharon Cuneta. Oh well, that's show biz for you.

Samantha Chavez's singing coup was her qualifying as a finalist in the second wave of auditions for "Miss Saigon." Unfortunately, she wasn't able to perform in that production. However, she had always been tagged as "very promising" and, 10 years ago, it looked as if she was on her way to fulfilling her potential.

19 year-old Danni Minogue was in Manila in August of '91 to promote her debut album, "Love and Kisses" (MCA). Danni was well-known Down Under for her role as Emma Jackson in the popular TV show "Home and Away" (one of the Top 10 Australian TV shows of 1989).

Many said she was only riding on the success of her more famous sister, Kylie Minogue, but Danni was quick to deny this. She said that she was bent on creating a name for herself.

No sibling rivalry

"I knew that was bound to happen," she said. "There's really nothing much I can do about it because Kylie's already established internationally, which is what I'm also aiming at. But definitely there's no sibling rivalry between the two of us."

Danni was on the last leg of her Southeast Asian promotional tour, which included stops in Hong Kong, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Japan, and Singapore.

Three of the tracks included in her album—"Success," "Jam to the Beat," and the title track—had been successive hits and had already made it to the top of the UK and European dance charts. Plus, her album had reached gold status in the Australian music market.

DONITA Rose's performance in "Class of '91" was "charming and effective."

Danni described her music as street-wise, fresh, dance-oriented, and energetic. "More hip-hop," she observed.

But where's Danni now? Seems like she hasn't been heard from in years. The only Minogue making the scene at the moment is sister Kylie (we saw her recently as an absinthe-inspired, blue-green fairy in "Moulin Rouge").

In the movie industry, critics were reacting to the much-touted "Class of '91," which starred Aga Muhlach, Cristina Gonzalez, Donita Rose, Rina Reyes, and directed by Gil Portes. It was deemed "a viewable film" which showed interesting relationships and "textured" characters.

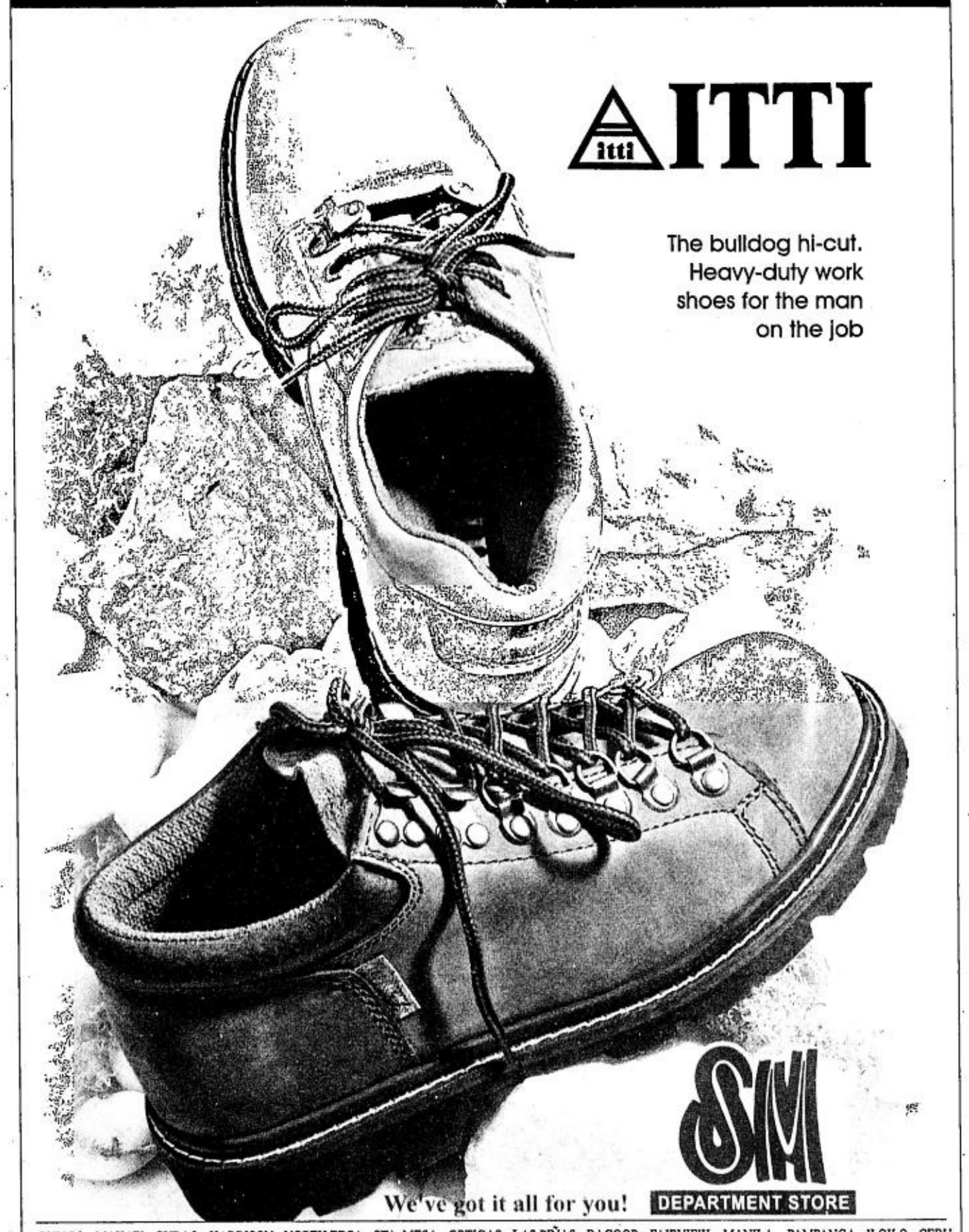
Down side

On the down side, it was thought that there weren't enough references to school life for the film's title to be justified, and that some of the scenes were too "self-conscious" and "stilted."

As for the performances, Rina was "entertaining and touching"; Aga, "sensitive and competent"; Cristina, "less vital"; and Donita, "charming and effective." One critic opined that the "best character work" was done by Bon Vibar with his "memorably insensitive" portrayal of Aga and Donita's American father.

NEW/P.E7

At the Men's Shoes Department



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HILDA Koronel in Brocka's "Angela Markado."

Director Lino Brocka remembered

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Conclusion)

ASIDE from Brocka's movies that caused a stir in film festivals abroad, he came up with smaller but similarly notable productions that also had a strong impact on viewers, albeit in different ways.

Family dramas

His best family dramas included "Inay" with Alicia Vergel, "Ina, Kapatid, Anak" with Lolita Rodriguez, "Mother Dear" with Charito Solis, and "Ina ka ng Anak Mo" with Nora Aunor and Lolita Rodriguez.

Lino also did "And Tatay Kong Nanay," another movie about a mother, but with a twist: the "mother" was gay. The film was distinguished by memorable performances from Dolphy (as the *"nanay,"* and Niño Muhlach (as the boy he adopted).

Since Dolphy and Niño were big stars at the time, the movie attracted more attention than usual, and made Lino better known to the mainstream audience.

It was also a feather in Dolphy's cap because, prior to this, the veteran comedian had steered clear of "serious" projects, for fear that they wouldn't click at the tills. Well, "Ang Tatay kong Nanay" was a success, so Dolphy's "experiment" redounded to his benefit.

Child superstar

Lino worked with child superstar Niño Muhlach in another affecting movie, "Tahan Na, Empoy, Tahan," which gave Niño the Famas award for best child actor in 1977.

Even as he tried to make substantial films, Lino always had to contend with the financial factor in filmmaking, so he had to do occasional potboilers or sexy movies. But he worked hard to give them an integrity of their own, even if slightly bruised and compromised.

His technique was to make sure that he got good actors to appear in his relatively more "commercial" productions. That way, even if the material was thin and frayed in parts, the strong performances would help save the day.

Luminous

Thus, in "Insiang," "Hayop sa Hayop" and "Angela Markado," he had the luminous Hilda Koronel. In "Mananayaw," there was Chanda Romero; "Gumising Ka, Maruja" starred Susan Roces; "Rubia Servios" topbilled Vilma Santos; "Init" had Rio Locsin; "Kontrobersiyal" featured Gina Alajar; "Caught in the Act" starred Lorna Tolentino; "Hot Property" and "Akin ang Iyong Katawan" had Carmi Martin and "White Slavery" topbilled Sarsi Emmanuelle and Jacklyn Jose.

Brocka's compromise with some producers went this way: he would agree to give them a commercial hit, provided that, after that, he would be allowed to make a movie of his choice.

Inactivity

This deal worked well with some producers, so Brocka ended up making some 64 films, despite some years of inactivity during which he licked the wounds that the local movie industry had inflicted on him, before he plunged into the fray again.

This was a huge output, more than that of Ishmael Bernal, who slowed down towards the end of his career, unlike Lino who had *four* movies in different stages of production when he died.

Aside from being a gifted, socially perceptive and engaged filmmaker, Lino was also a good, giving, colorful, candid person and friend. We hold as a personal badge of honor his proclamation that, in general, he scorned film critics, but he found our reviews credible.

Long conversations

We looked forward to our long conversations. When we hadn't seen each other for a long time, he would call and chat, gossip and lecture away nonstop for two or three hours straight, leaving only a few breathing spaces for us to quickly sneak in an occasional comment or interjection before he chattered away again, holding forth on everything under the sun—and then some.

Lino also made us proud—and got us worried—when, during one rally, he appointed us as his "personal censor." No, not really to edit his incendiary statements, but to stand in front of the stage as he shouted and fulminated, and, when he started to go "too far," for us to give him a sign, so he could check himself and jump to his less bombastic peroration.

Fundraising show

Finally, a few months before he died, Lino made us happy when he tapped us to direct a fundraising show for the Directors' Guild, of which he was one of the leading lights. He wanted us to direct a cast completely made up of famous directors—himself, Ishmael, Celso Ad. Castillo, Peque Gallaga, etc. What a show that would have been! Too bad, he died before that dream presentation could be realized. Still, thanks, Lino—for everything!

Send 35 Members
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AM/FM

Downey does a duet with Sting

BY RITO P. ASILO

(Conclusion)

ON that note, we switched to FM and caught Whitney Houston's "All at Once" and Barry Manilow's "Somewhere Down the Road" being played. Both songs were big hits in the '80s.

Respect

While Manilow never earned the respect of critics, the Juilliard-trained musician was unquestionably one of the most successful recording artists of the '70s, with hits like "I Write the Songs," "Looks Like We Made It," "Copacabana," "Could It Be Magic" and "I Made It Through the Rain." He began accompanying Bette Midler on piano as she performed in New York City's gay bathhouses in 1971. This association with the Divine Miss M gave him an auspicious start in the recording business, and led to recording deals that produced "Mandy," his first in a string of number one hits. Love him or hate him, nobody can deny Manilow's popularity, especially in the Philippines.

On the other hand, Whitney's first album, which included "All at Once," was the first debut by a woman in Billboard chart history to enter at number one, and was the best-selling debut album until Alanis Morisette's "Jagged Little Pill," and later, Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time," broke the record.

But Whitney's "I Will Always Love You," composed by Dolly Parton, used as theme song to her movie, 1992's "The Bodyguard," with Kevin Costner, is still the biggest single in pop-music history. It stayed at number one for three and a half months!

Remake

What got our attention was a remake of the Police's classic, "Every Breath You Take," featuring a duet by Sting and actor Robert Downey Jr., recorded for the fourth soundtrack of TV's "Ally McBeal"! This is further proof that the controversial actor is bursting with talent. Like Ewan McGregor ("Moulin Rouge") and Gwyneth Paltrow ("Duets"), Downey proved that he could carry a tune.

It is disheartening that his drug-related troubles continue to wreak havoc on his career. On the night the album, "Ally McBeal: For Once in My Life," was released, Robert Downey Jr. had another of his run-ins with the law, and the next day, he was fired from the show. Very unfortunate because he was on the album cover with the show's resident songbird, Vonda Shepard.

But somehow, talent really reigns over seemingly insurmountable odds. At the recent Golden Globe Awards, Downey won as Best Supporting Actor for his performance in "Ally McBeal." For the same role, he won a Screen Actors' Guild Best Supporting Actor award, and is expected to romp off with an Emmy next week. He has an Oscar nomination and a British Academy Award win for 1992's "Chaplin."

Even his peers are rallying behind him. When his name was announced as winner at the Golden Globes, Downey got a standing ovation as he approached the stage. If this does not inspire him to kick the habit, I don't know what will!

DOWNEY. Drug problems.

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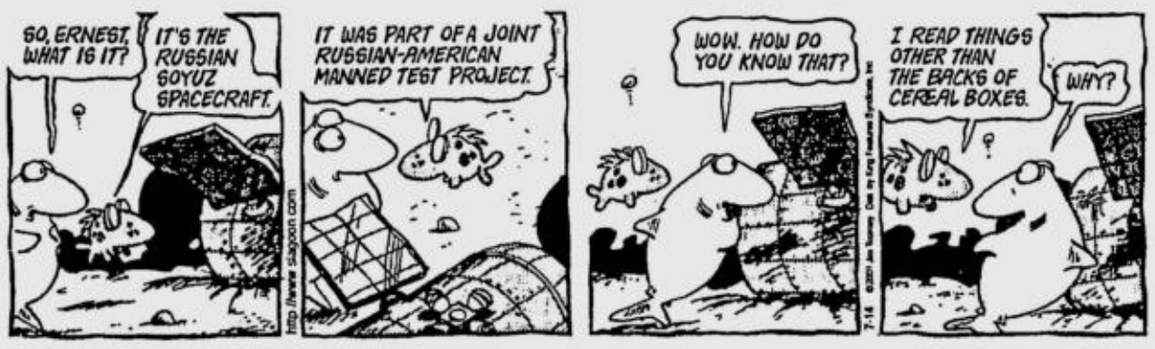
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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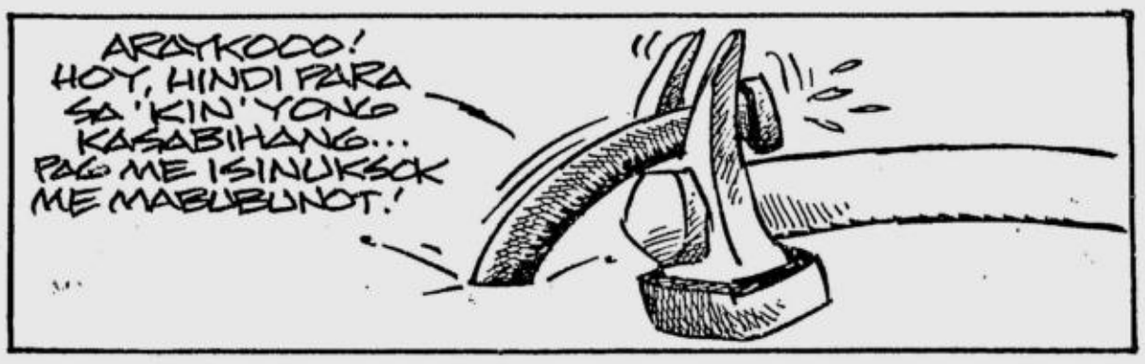


HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Redford, Christian Slater, Patrick Swayze, Shelley Winters, Rosalynn Carter, Martin Mull, Edward Norton

Happy Birthday: You won't be sitting on the sidelines this year. Prepare to make your mark by using your talents, beliefs and creative ideas. It's time to give your imagination free rein. Keep an open mind and a caring heart, and you will prosper in all aspects of your life. Your numbers: 2, 14, 16, 23, 35, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can expect to be doing some traveling. Love will present itself through friends in organizational functions. A Leo may play an important role in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's difficult for you to divulge your true feelings to others. You may not want to hurt them, but if you aren't honest, you will all suffer in the end.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pleasure trips will encourage exciting new connections. Participate in activities that will allow you to show your true talents. It's time to take positive action and move on with life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't spend too much on loved ones or entertainment. You'll get along better with friends than with family today. Get out and enjoy; you don't get a chance to relax that often.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes at home will leave you feeling a little low. Make plans to get out with friends. You need to sort out personal problems, and perhaps talking to an old and respected friend might help.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's a quiet day. Get some rest and relaxation rather than take on a multitude of tasks that really aren't your responsibility. It's time to re-evaluate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to have a purpose in life. Look into a cause you believe in, and if there isn't an organization already formed to help address this issue, consider starting one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't bother trying to make those you live with happy. It won't work today. Concentrate on activities that will please you, and you'll be in a better frame of mind to sort out problems at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won't be able to solve the problems of the world today, but you can fix some personal flaws that you're not too happy about. Start the process of becoming a better you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your family is probably feeling neglected. Having been so busy trying to figure out what to do next, you've forgotten that you're not alone. Get back to basics before it's too late.

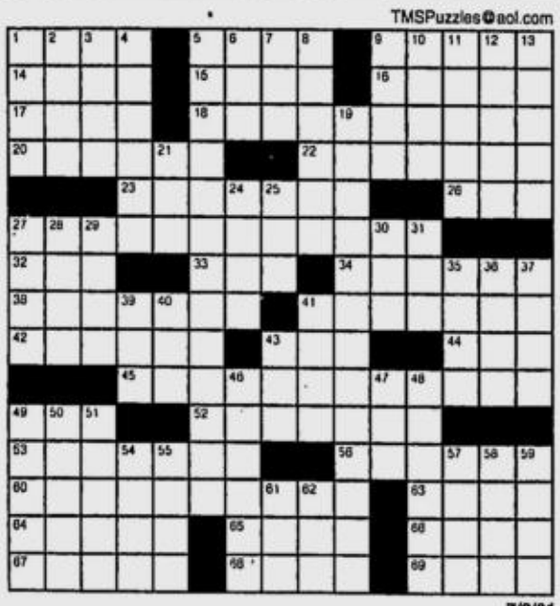
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time to lay the cards on the table and tell your mate how you feel about the relationship. You need to spend more time getting to know one another again.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your talents will be recognized. If you mix business with pleasure and participate in social activities with colleagues, you might meet a new mate.

Birthday Baby: You love attention and will do whatever is necessary to stand out in a crowd. You are clever, sensitive and always entertaining. You know how to please and how to get your own way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



7/3/01

ACROSS
1 __ Khayyam
5 Off one's rocker
9 Luges
14 Tipper's last name
15 Leave out
16 Video image unit
17 Superman's girlfriend
18 In a playful manner
20 Make lovable
22 Traveling case
23 Majestic
26 Knight's honorific
27 London police headquarters
32 Costello or Rawls
33 Equal score
34 Unleashes
38 Release one's grip
41 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
42 Discuss once more
43 Feed-bag tidbit
44 Maugham's "Cakes and __"
45 Marksman
49 Part of GTE
52 Baby cats
53 Touched up against
56 Alaska buyer
60 Oldest man in the Bible
63 Callas number
64 Clean feathers
65 Puerto __
66 Easter season
67 Confused
68 Fret
69 Early word for baby

DOWN
1 Lascivious look
2 "__ Over Parador"
3 Saharan
4 Change place cards
5 Unexceptional
6 Ms. Thurman
7 Kazurinsky or Conway
8 Very erotic
9 Locate
10 Peru's capital
11 CEOs, VPs, etc.
12 City on the Jumna River
13 More cunning
19 Upstages
21 Hole puncher
24 Use scissors
25 Poem of praise
27 Utter indistinctly
28 Ice-cream holder
29 Sound of pain
30 Decay
31 Female deer
35 Thin strip of wood
36 French she
37 Prophet
39 Vegas lead-in
40 Type of blonde
41 Dawn's direction
43 Make a choice
46 "__ of the Purple Sage"
47 Five before six?
48 Kennedy assassin
49 Florida city
50 Critic Roger
51 Guitar relatives
54 Quaker pronoun
55 Word with fish or melt
57 Domain
58 Orange coat?
59 Information
61 Coll. course
62 Sleeve card?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	O	L	E		A	B	R	A	D	E		H	A	T
O	M	A	N		L	E	E	R	E	D		Y	E	A
T	A	N	S		L	E	V	E	E	S		G	O	P
C	H	A	I	R		F	E	N	D		V	I	N	E
H	A	I	L	E	S		E	L	A	S	S	I	E	
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L	O	N		S	I	P		S	A	G		C	U	E
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7/3/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

Powerdance anniversary concert on Aug. 25

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

DOUGLAS Nierras Powerdance presents "Turn Up the QUIET. . .Just Dance!" its 14th anniversary concert at the CCP Main Theater on Aug. 25 at 8 p.m. and on Aug. 26 at 5 p.m. Explaining the title, Nierras says, "Mainly because, in a macrocosm, the country has been going through a lot of loudness. Edsa this, Edsa that. In turmoil and in chaos, you go and find the spot in your heart where there's peace and quiet and you will find what you're looking for. You'll even find yourself."

Prayer

This year's concert will feature new pieces. Traditionally, Nierras includes a prayer among his dances. This year, it is "Pagmamalay." "Awareness. It's really about awareness of your reality, your physicality, in relation to your spirituality and who you relate to as a greater power," says Nierras.

He feels that prayer is best appreciated in silence. The prayer "Pagmamalay" celebrates giving life in quiet and passing away in quiet, using the themes of Death and Resurrection. He chose to use two Filipino compositions, "Payapang Daigdig" and "Gloria" (from Ryan Cayabyab's 'Misa').

The highlight of this concert is the 40-minute piece, "Gagaq-an", which was commissioned by the CCP in celebration of Independence Day for the year 2001. Nierras shares that he was told that the piece should be on freedom. "I did not want to do anything about Kawit, Cavite! That was their idea, *iyung mga naka-rayadillo,* etc. *Sabi ko, 'Teka lang.'* You see, I don't really like literal translations. So I asked, 'can I have a free hand in interpreting the theme?'

Freedom

So Nierras explored the idea that when a child is growing up he longs for freedom to do things his way. When he finally becomes an adult, he finds that there are still many constraints on him and he longs for the innocence and freedom of childhood. What resulted was a collage of images on freedom. Nierras got the Bayanihan Dance Company to join his dancers, and the Madrigal Singers to provide the singing.

"The singing, music and dancing are done live. It's a grand production!" Nierras says proudly.

Nierras' company didn't carry his name until two years ago. The

NIERRAS. Passion for excellence.

change after the group went international. The organizers felt Powerdance sounded generic and told Douglas that many of the world's famous dance companies carried the names of their artistic director like the Alvin Ailey American Dance Company and the Martha Graham Modern Dance Company.

"So they said, what's wrong with your name *ba*? *Sabi ko*, nothing. They even wanted me to call it the Douglas Nierras Company! *Medyo, sandali lang. . .mas marami na nga akong kaaway sa* Douglas Nierras Powerdance *e doon pa kaya sa* Douglas Nierras Company?"

Now, the group sounds more like an international dance company, which the organizers wanted them to be. Nierras admits that the change in name does sound ego-inflating for the founder, but he denies that this is so.

"You know it's the farthest thing, because I really hate putting my name up there on the poster. I get a lot of flak for that, from people here in the country. Maybe people who are not so happy with me!"

So how does he deal with that? "I don't. I ignore it. It's a reality," Nierras declares. The idea was not his to begin with. "The idea was espoused by people who were concerned about the company. So I suppose it was a solid, sound idea"

Fast turnover

It was noted that many of the dancers he had last year were no longer with the company. Nierras says that this is normal in the dance scene. "A year or two ago, I was starting to think, why is the turnover so fast? So I went out and looked at the other companies in the country. Normal *lang pala kami. 'Kala ko di ako* normal *kasi may* issue *sa akin.*"

Nierras has a reputation of being a tyrant on the dance floor. "I'm sure you will notice that the best governments and the best civilizations were ruled by tyrants!" Nierras jokes. "It's not that I'm admitting. . .or I'm espousing tyranny!" he adds.

Nierras has been known to scream at his dancers when they don't quite get what he wants them to do. He admits, "I'm still a screamer, *pero* I find less reason to scream now." He is particularly pleased with his company now. "This set of dancers I have is very open. Some are dancers who have transferred from other companies, others are my dancers who went out, did some things for themselves, and then came back, a little more mature in outlook.

Because of his passion for excellence and artistic temperament, Nierras has clashed with a lot of his dancers in the past, leading to many of them leaving the company. Nierras would have it no other way. "Well, I'd rather that they leave that way because I cannot work with mediocrity. So, if I want to work with brilliant people, who are going to give me back the same energy I give them, they have to have a certain arrogance." He has no regrets and is proud in his choice of dancers "because that means I did not get any mediocre person in my company. If I had people saying yes, yes, yes to me forever, I would have raised a group of lapdogs"

Replacements

Nierras admits that it is not easy to find replacements for the dancers he has lost. But now, because of the more advanced technology of video, it is easy to keep track of the dances done in the past.

He says that he can easily spot a dancer just by watching that person move. But he cautions against basing skill merely on potential. "A person with potential may have a really rotten attitude—that's something you don't want to touch but a person who isn't really that impressive but has a very deep-seated passion for something might become a very good dancer in two months' time."

New talents, movies made their mark

(From page E3)

Another talked-about film was a comedy on the elections, "Barbi for President." It was considered timely and relevant because it anticipated the country's first free elections after martial law, which were held in 1992.

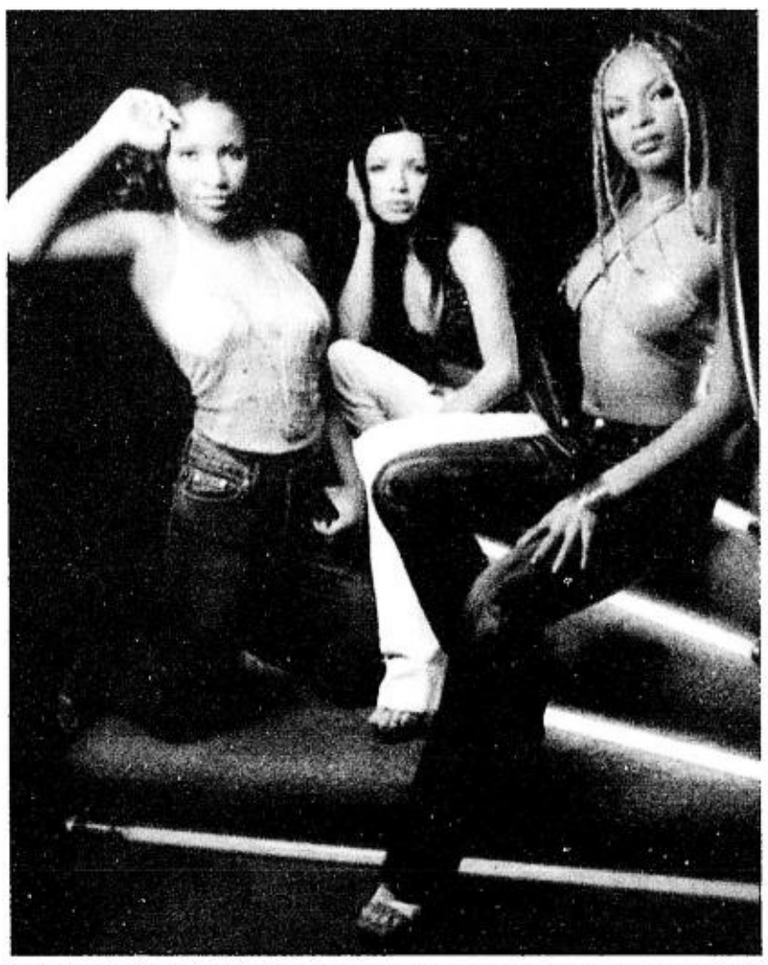
The movie begins with a *manghuhula* (played by Nanette Inventor) who predicts that the next president would be a woman. This made the four male "presidentiables" immediately change campaign strategies. Joey de Leon (as Bartolome del Rosario of the LBM Party) revives his Barbi character, that is, he does a female impersonation. And Noel Trinidad (Domingo Ignacio of the DOM Party), Lou Veloso (Miguel San Pedro of the KKB), and Larry Silva (Filemon Magallanes of RIP) push their wives to run in their stead. Their wives were played by Dexter Doria, Tia Pusit, and Lollie Mara, respectively.

Comedians

The producers stocked the movie with comedians, in keeping with their view that politicians are, in essence, funny creatures. Other comedians in the film were Panchito Alba, Willie Revillame, Ruby Rodriguez, and Don Pepot. Other non-comedic actors were Mark Gil, Eula Valdez, Johnny Wilson, and Odette Khan.

And what did critics have to say about this film? Well, they liked it, more or less. The film was thought to be "enlivened by the cracks it makes at the politicians' expense, and by the crackerjack performances" of the cast of supporting comedians. Tessie Tomas was commended for her portrayal of "presidentiable" Mary Ann Santillan. "She strives mightily to be amusing when the script is not, and generally succeeds," wrote one reviewer.

Critics didn't think it was on the same level as that political comedy classic, "Juan Tamad Goes to Congress" (done by Manuel Conde, no less) but they thought it was more or less OK. At least, thought one, it was an improvement on the usual "smarminess." Which is all we can hope for even now, actually!



HONEYZ. The band almost broke up when Heavenli took a temporary leave.

Meet the Honeyz

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

"I'M A big fan of Honeyz ever since I heard their song, "Finally Found." I love their music. I liked them even more when I heard their second single, "End of the Line." Please tell me how they formed Honeyz and give a brief background on each girl. Thanks a lot!"—*Janice Salvame, Pluto St., Carrieland Country Homes, Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal.*

How Honeyz got its name: Celena, Heavenli and Naima were partying at a club one night and some guys started calling them honeys. They thought it was funny and decided to go with the name and changed the "s" into a "z."

Disney songs

How they started out: Celena and Naima met in Paris while Celena was performing Disney songs at a downtown revue. Then they met Heavenli who had secured a solo record deal. After some girlie talk, they decided to form a band.

Celena

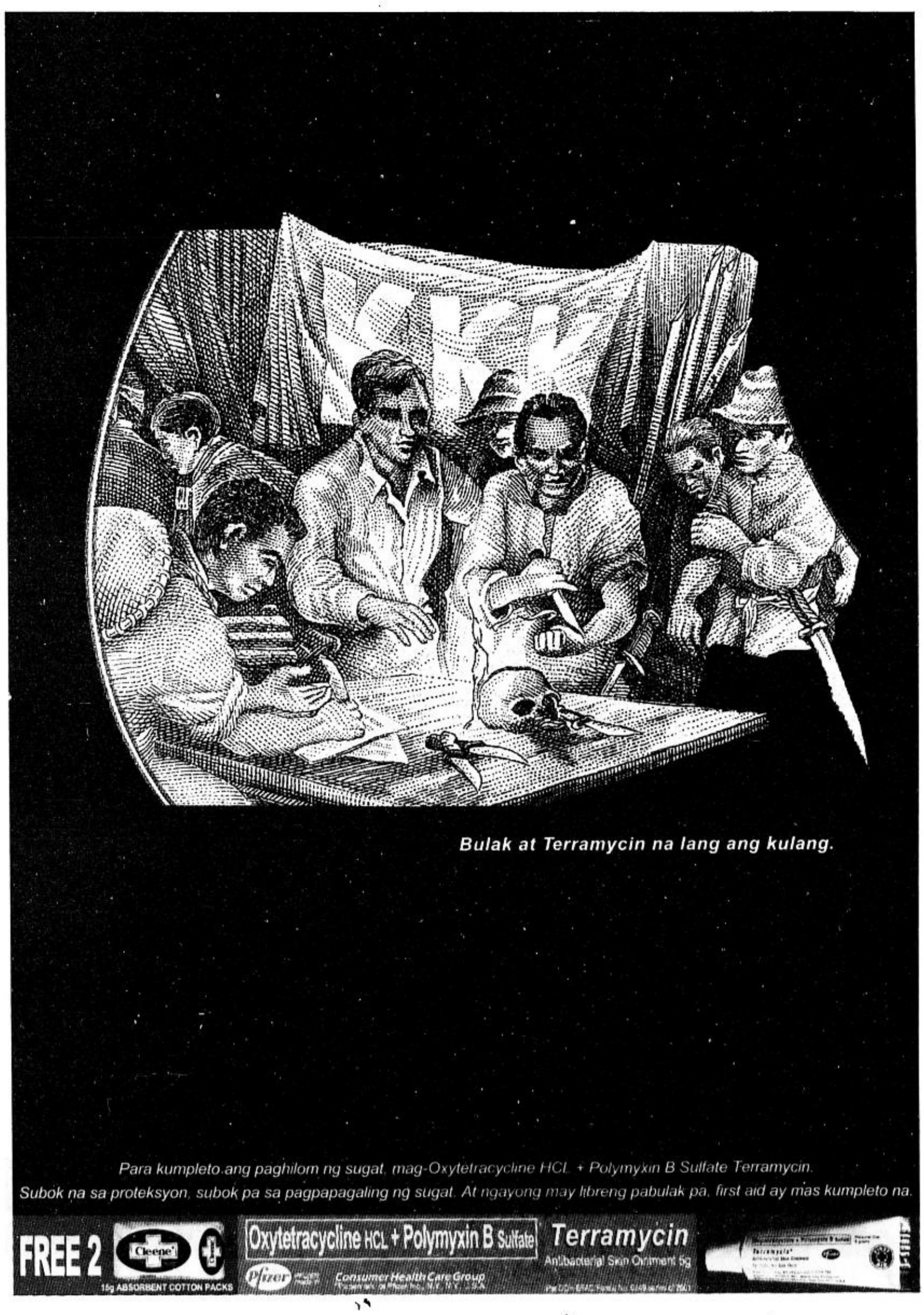
Full Name: Celena Francina Alexandra Cherry
Age: 24
Birth date: April 26, 1977
Birth place: Hammersmith, London
Likes: Nandos (a Portuguese chicken restaurant), massages and holidays
Dislikes: spiders and two-faced people
Favorite Singer: Whitney Houston
Favorite Male Artist: Usher
Favorite Band: Next
Favorite LP: Brandy's "Never Say Never"
Favorite Make-up: Mac, Ruby, Millie
Favorite designers; Prada and Gucci for shoes and bags; Louis Vuitton (designer) and Morgan and Hype DF (shops)
If you could live anywhere: Florida
Trivia: Celena would have loved to play the role of Tiffany in "Eastenders"

Heavenli

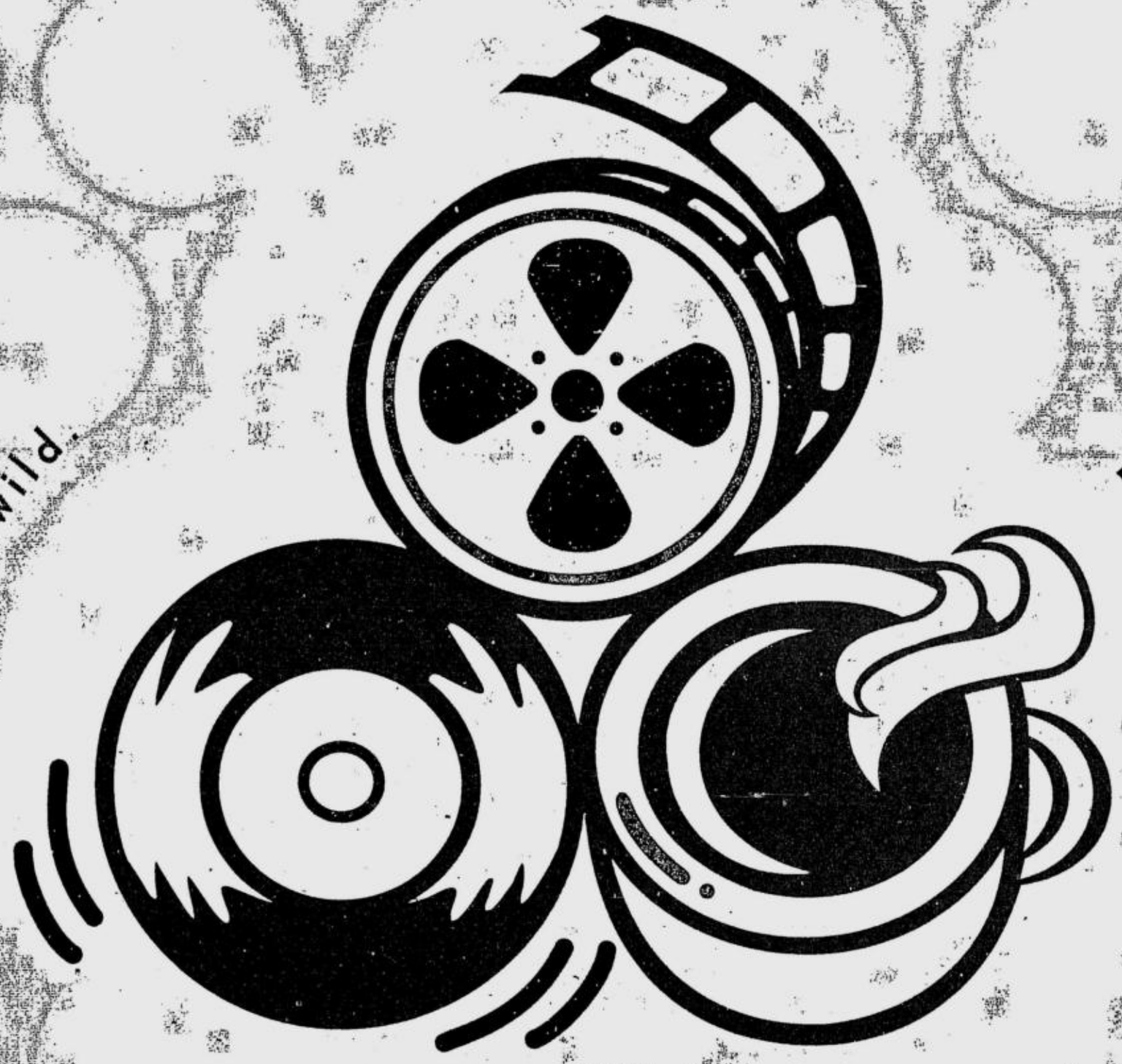
Full Name: Heavenli Abdi
Likes: amusement parks, pajama parties, white tigers
Dislikes: Cooking and eating onions
Favorite Food: KFC, Apple turnovers, Haagen Dazs ice cream
Favorite Drink: Peach Bacardi Breezers
Sports: Tennis
Hobby: Walking her dog
Favorite Singer: Janet Jackson, TLC
Favorite Male Artist: Lionel Richie, Luther Vandross
Favorite TV show: "Neighbours"
Favorite Film: "Sleepless in Seattle"
Favorite Make-up/ Designer: Jean-Paul Gaultier
Favorite shop: Selfridges
If you could live anywhere: Bahamas
Trivia: The band almost broke up when Heavenli took a temporary leave of absence and was replaced by Mariama.

Naima

Full Name: Naima Belkhiati
Age: 27
Birth date: December 4, 1973
Birth place: Avignon, France
Likes: Chocolates, old movies, working out
Dislikes: Ignorance and racism
Favorite Food: French, Thai, Japanese, Italian, Sushi
Favorite Drink: Cranberry juice, Archers, Chrystal Champagne, Laurent Perrier
Sports: Scuba diving, bowling
Hobbies: Reading, shopping, going to the gym
Favorite Singers: Mariah Carey, Valerie Simpson, Minnie Ripperton
Favorite LP: Brandy's "Never Say Never"
Favorite Male Artists: Maxwell, D'Angelo
Favorite TV shows: "Friends," animal documentaries
Favorite Make-up: Mac, Ruby and Millie
Favorite clothes/designers: Alexander McQueen, Donatella Versace, Karen Miller, Morgan, D & G
If you could live anywhere: South of France
Trivia: Likes English men and finds Prince Charles very sexy



Be moved.



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*GENTXT Members who register from Aug 1-18, 2001 at Music One & Tower Records.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. All-0226, Series of 2001.

SaturdaySPECIAL

Meryl Streep and company produce robust and entertaining 'Seagull'

MERYL Streep and Kevin Kline in a scene from the all-star revival of Chekhov's "The Seagull."

BY MICHAEL KUCHWARA

NEW YORK—"Oh, what could be more boring than the sweet boredom of life in the country," sighs the extravagant actress Arkadina as she surveys her rural fiefdom in late 19th century Russia.

Self-destruction

Trust me, she's wrong. You won't find much boredom here, watching the self-destruction of the foolish, often comically sad and ultimately tragic folk who populate director Mike Nichols' robust, entertaining and moving take on "The Seagull," the Chekhov classic now playing outdoors in Central Park through Aug. 26.

How could it be anything but fascinating since Arkadina is portrayed by Meryl Streep, returning to the New York stage after an absence of more than 20 years and making us wonder why it took her so long.

From the moment she enters, exquisitely dressed in cream and violet and wearing a flower behind one ear, Streep takes command.

And it's not because she does a woozy cartwheel in one of the production's more riotous moments.

Streep does something rare with this impossible,

MERYL/p.F2

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August 18-24

Ano ang ating national fish?

1. Goldfish
2. Fish Ball
3. Bangus

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To earn a raffle entry, you must answer 2 questions correctly.

1 Dial 135-1 para i-text ang sagot sa Question of the Week.*

2 Kung tama ang sagot mo, hintayin ang second question.

3 Para sagutin ang second question muling i-dial ang135-1.

4 Kung tama ang sagot mo, i-text ang pangalan at birthday.
For example:
- Name Entry: Dan Ty
  Press 3 once for the letter D, press 2 once for the letter A, press 6 two times for the letter N. Press 0 for space. Press 8 once for the letter T, press 9 three times for the letter Y. Press # two times to submit your name.
- Birthday Entry: July 13, 1965
  Press 07131965 to submit your birthday.

5 Entries should be sent from 6:00 am to 12:00 mn. Abangan ang resulta ng bola sa newspapers o sa mail.

Araw-araw ang bola, milyun-milyon ang pera!

* TXT 135 service must be activated to join the promo.
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Promo period from August 12 to November 15, 2001.
See leaflet for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1257. Series of 2001.
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'America's Sweethearts' stars talk about 'unholy alliance'

BY DOUGLAS J. ROWE

(Conclusion)

NEW YORK—The journalist interviewing Julia Roberts swore he wouldn't describe her house. But what does he do instead?

"He looks it up, sees that it's a hybrid of what was originally written and does a full-scale Freudian interpretation of what I took out," Roberts says. "Really what he made was . . . this is the reality of the quote, and this is what she has, so this is what she does to her life; this is the edit that goes on in her life."

Theme

It served as the theme of the whole piece, says the Academy Award-winning actress, adding: "It was heartbreaking to me only in that he was very smart, very likable. I enjoyed talking to him. (He) walked in with a thesis, and nothing that I did was going to detour him from said thesis. And I played into it with my little edited fireplace."

Journalists no longer get into her house.

Are interviews the worst of a star's job, then?

"For me, talk shows," John Cusack says.

"You're bad on TV," Roberts interjects.

"I really am," he says, adding that telling funny stories and acting like a standup comic on Leno or Letterman aren't his forte.

"I can do it; I just don't like it," Cusack says.

"It's so much a part of the job," costar Catherine Zeta-Jones says.

Nonetheless, some days you wake up and you just don't want to talk, she continues.

"Everybody gets those days, right? You can't really intellectualize what you want to say and what you're thinking."

As time goes on, she hopes she's getting more savvy about the media. "When I first started doing interviews, I really thought I was talking to, like, my best friend."

"You're NOT!" Cusack says, cracking up the others.

"The question is: Do you know better ultimately? Or do you care less?" Roberts wonders.

"Both," Cusack offers, explaining that it's best for him not to sweat over how he'll be perceived. "It's all going to be replaced tomorrow with another story about another celebrity."

Private person

Fans often confuse the public persona with the private person, Billy Crystal says. If people see him and he's not giddy, smiling and making a joke, they wonder what's wrong.

"Boy, that's a big pressure," he says. "But they want us to be who they want us to be. And there's no in-between sometimes."

Cusack particularly dislikes when people come up to him and say: "Hey! Smile!"

"Oh, that's the worst . . . I hate that so much," Crystal says.

"'How bad can it be?'" Zeta-Jones mimics.

"My favorite is: Where do you see yourself in 10 years? And I always say, 'umm, 43,'" Roberts says.

"Earth," Crystal submits.

Crystal, who co-wrote the screenplay of "America's Sweethearts" with his "Analyze This" collaborator Peter Tolan, says the worst that's said about the press in the film is: "The best junket is when the press thinks it's not a weekend about the movie, it's a weekend about them."

Complete idiots

And the film's stars are quick to point out that no one escapes unscathed. The falling-out-of-love acting couple played by Cusack and Zeta-Jones are "just complete idiots," as Cusack put it.

Then there's a megalomaniacal studio chief (Stanley Tucci) who thinks the only true show business genius ever was Señor Wences, a wildly eccentric director (Christopher Walken) who bought the Unabomber's shack from the government to use as a film editing facility; and a nearly out-to-pasture PR man (Crystal) who would make Machiavelli proud.

The idea for the film came to Crystal while he was doing a European junket for 1999's "Analyze This." Journalists in Italy and England asked why he hadn't done more movies with Meg Ryan and said it didn't look right when she was kissing someone besides Crystal in movies. One even called them "America's sweethearts."

Crystal wondered: What if we had done 10 movies together and were married, but the marriage was breaking up and there was one more movie to flog?

(The idea predates Ryan's real-life breakup with Dennis Quaid because of her "Proof of Life" on-set romance with Russell Crowe.) *AP*

ROBERTS. Journalists no longer get into her house.

Billing second only to money in ego-driven film world

BY BOB THOMAS

LOS ANGELES—"Paramount Pictures and Mutual Film Co. present . . . a Lawrence Gordon production . . . in association with Eidos Interactive Limited . . . a Simon West film . . . Angelina Jolie . . . 'Lara Croft: Tomb Raider.'"

Breathless

Whew! We've only reached the title of this summer action flick and already we're breathless.

Then there's the science fiction sendup where you have to trek through eight names of companies or people before arriving at the title:

"Dreamworks Pictures and Columbia Pictures present . . . a Montecito Picture Co. production . . . an Ivan Reitman film . . . David Duchovny . . . Orlando Jones . . . Seann William Scott . . . and Julianne Moore . . . (stay with us, folks, here it comes) 'Evolution.'"

If only they had put as much effort into the script.

And there was this message at the end of several minutes of closing credits for last year's spoof "State and Main."

"A complete list of this film's associate producers is available upon written request."

Excessive

Writer-director David Mamet was just kidding, of course. But even though the Hollywood name game may at times seem excessive to the point of absurdity, it's a serious, high-stakes business in this ego-driven industry.

When stars and their agents negotiate for movie roles, there's only one major concern after the money: Billing. Or maybe it should be BILLING.

Yes, it gets that fussy, right down to the size of the letters.

Billing—how the names of actors, directors, writers, producers, even companies, appear in ads and on the screen—has a long history in the movie business. Careers can be enhanced or hindered by the mere presentation of names.

IN "Pearl Harbor," Alec Baldwin, center, got an "and" before his name in the movie's credits.

And when disputes erupt (billing vs. BILLING, for instance), longtime relationships can be dashed, multimillion-dollar contracts broken, careers ruined and . . . let's just say things can get really ugly.

During the recent contract negotiations between Hollywood writers and producers, the Writers Guild continued its decades-long battle against the "possessory credit" for directors.

That's the industry's term for such billings as "George Stevens' 'Shane'" or "A film by Steven Spielberg," all designed to emphasize the director's contribution to the film.

Although the possessory credit was very much on the table during the protracted Writers Guild talks, it was not a part of the May settlement. Negotiators decided to handle the thorny issue the way they deal with such matters in Washington: form a blue ribbon committee for further study.

So is billing really that important?

Sensitive

"I definitely think it means something," observes a lawyer at one of the big talent agencies who—indicative of how sensitive the issue can be—spoke only on the condition that his name wasn't used (oh, the irony).

"It connotes an actor's stature. If an actor's name is above the title, it denotes marquee value . . . It's the whole concept of 'Can he open a picture?'" the lawyer says.

In other words: Does the actor have enough prestige and likability to draw crowds in the crucial first weekend of release?

Observes veteran publicist Jerry Pam: "If an actor's price is $10 million and his last three pictures have bombed, he might agree to $8 million in his next picture—provided he gets top billing. That's how important it is."

Stars like Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts and Tom Cruise automatically get billing above the title. Agents for lesser stars often have to bargain for billing, and deals sometimes fail if the placement is deemed unsatisfactory.

Whether out of loyalty to the director or the prospect of big money, established stars sometimes accept roles that are more than cameos but less than starring.

Solution

Alec Baldwin portrayed Col. Jimmy Doolittle in "Pearl Harbor," appearing in only the early and later parts of the film. The billing solution: the names of six actors are listed above the title followed by "and Alec Baldwin." That small conjunction is considered vital to an actor's reputation.

"Sometimes two leads are of almost equal stature," says the agency lawyer. "Then you might see staggered billing: the name on the right is a little bit higher than the one on the left. Sometimes you will see situations where Actor A is in first position on the screen, and Actor B is in first position on the paid ads and posters.

"When you're representing the talent, you want to, at the very least, maintain the (billing) precedent. If you can, you want to improve the billing, assuming that it can be improved. Eddie Murphy and Jack Nicholson you don't have to do anything for. *AP*

Apple cider for skin and hair problems

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

DO you use vinegar in your beauty treatment? If it's apple cider vinegar that you're opting for, then you're making the best decision.

Benefits

Tanja Hirschsteiner explains in her book, "Home Remedies from A to Z" the many benefits gained from using apple cider vinegar to solve skin and hair problems:

"Apple cider vinegar is beneficial when applied externally. It improves blood circulation to the skin, helps clear up rashes due to allergies, relieves itching, and reduces swelling from bugbites.

"Good blood circulation to the skin facilitates removal of metabolic by-products and environmental toxins from the body. As a result, the skin looks healthier, and acne visibly improves.

"Diluted apple cider vinegar cools minor burns including sunburn, relieves pain, and helps prevent scars. Applied regularly, it leaves the skin more supple and gives it a healthy glow. Hair, too, becomes softer, shinier, and easier to comb. Regular rinsing with apple cider vinegar is even said to delay the onset of graying."

If you want to experience for yourself the benefits described by Hirschsteiner, here are the basic recipes that she shares with her readers:

Mixture

Allergic rashes—Mix equal parts of apple cider vinegar and cold water, add a little honey, and rub the mixture into the affected area several times a day. For best results, saturate a piece of cotton with the mixture, place it on the affected area, and secure it with adhesive tape.

Insect bites—Apply a cold apple cider vinegar wrap to the swollen area (refer to last week's article for this). For minor stings, dip a small piece of gauze in diluted apple cider vinegar, squeeze out any excess liquid, and place it on the affected area.

Acne—Twice a week, use a facial steam bath (see last week's article), followed by rinsing with a mixture of equal parts of apple cider vinegar and cold water to close the pores.

Mild Sunburn—Cool the sunburned area repeatedly with apple cider vinegar compresses (see last week's article). A lukewarm bath, with a half-pint of apple cider vinegar added to the water also relieves burning.

Brittle, over-processed hair—Mix one part apple cider vinegar with one part warm water, and apply to washed hair while still wet. Leave in for a few minutes, then rinse thoroughly.

Home remedies are truly more natural, inexpensive and practical!

Meryl Streep and company produce robust and entertaining 'Seagull'

(From page F1)

self-absorbed creature. She makes Arkadina almost sympathetic. Despite her manipulation of her son Konstantin and her lover Trigorin, this woman's vulnerabilities are understandable in Streep's carefully calibrated portrait.

Comedies

Chekhov's plays often are called comedies and Nichols knows how to get laughs, rueful and otherwise, out of "The Seagull." It's not easy to do, judging from the last Broadway revival—nearly 10 years ago—with a miscast Tyne Daly as Arkadina. Both the actress and the playwright went down for the count.

Not so at the Delacorte Theater, where Nichols has surrounded Streep with a starry, first-rate supporting cast. As the famous writer Trigorin, Kevin Kline gives a deceptively calm, unshowy performance. It's at odds with the malevolence with which he infects and destroys Nina, the impressionable young woman who falls under his spell.

A ravishing, delicate Natalie Portman gushes with girlish delight when she first meets Trigorin, a writer who uses people as subjects for his stories—and then disposes of them. Chekhov's symbolism comes on a bit strong, literally equating Nina to the seagull killed by the lovestruck Konstantin for the young woman.

Portman has a difficult task, traveling from naive child to disillusioned woman. Yet she handles the journey surprisingly well, allowing the play to build to a bleak finale. *AP*

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG. 18 - AUG. 24

CH	12	4	5	11	9	13	7.1	29	E!
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 'F' 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Auto Focus	6:00 Vampires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *American Comedy Awards 2001* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 To Be Announced 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class	6:00 Viva Premiere Night 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10:00 Fist of Fury	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Kalokohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 El Special 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Beau Bridges* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Christina Applegate* 12:00 El Coming Attractions
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanala 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 National Network News 11:30 Business & Leisure	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Monster Sharks* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bilboy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	6:00 Shadow Raiders 6:30 Crash Zone 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA Game1 7:30 PBA GAme 2 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Viva Music Channel 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Belle 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El Coming Attractions 7:00 El Special *Elvis-The Hollywood Years* 9:00 El Special *Elvis & Madonna* 9:30 *Elvis On Tour* 11:00 *Elvis: That's The Way It Is*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:30 Kabatikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Correspondents 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Speed	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 The Big Night *Black Rain* 9:00 Life With Roger 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonballZ 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:15 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Sparks 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 NYPD Blue	6:30 Viva Proudly Presents 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 WNBA 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Grapevine 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *New Zealand* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Oka Tokat 9:30 Regal Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Business Insights	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Rx Files 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:45 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Pretender 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Action Cinema 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:30 Viva Music Channel 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zing 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Kirsten Dunst* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu 101 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Diyos At Bayan	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils ' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:45 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Imbestigador	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Malcolm in the Middle 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Bully the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Blow By Blow 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	7:00 Twilight Zone 7:30 Survivor 2 8:30 When Hidden Camera Attacks 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Party Central* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Home Along da Riles 9:30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Best Of Sydney Olympics 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulalo 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Normal Ohio 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:35 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Amazing People 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Police Huur	6:30 TeleViva Specials 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Tracey Gold* 8:00 El True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close *Cameron Diaz*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Digimon 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Rostol 7:00 Top of the Pops 7:30 By Request *Westlife 3* 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Point of Betrayal*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Lupin III 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:00 Monica Brava 8:30 Pokemon 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:15 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Mi Querida Isabel 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 To Be Annouced 7:30 Holding the Baby 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Independent Women the Mega Show Part 2*	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 10:00 Let's Play Pool 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 El News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 El News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Big Easy* 12:00 Talk Soup

Once a forgotten joke, 8-tracks now a remembered joke

BY MICHAEL HILL

ENDICOTT, New York—The ABBA 8-track plays in Len Saaf's apartment as he shows off the rest of his collection.

There's Kansas, the Commodores, Cheap Trick and a K-tel cartridge with the Barry Manilow chestnut "Mandy." This is music Saaf heard on the radio growing up in the '70s. Then there's the stereo, the one he found in a thrift store. It has a flywheel tuner, faux wood sides and—crucially—an 8-track slot.

Amazing

"It was really something amazing," he says. "It was like digging something up out of the ground."

Or the grave.

Eight-tracks are supposed to be dead and forgotten, a musical format long ago relegated to the dustbin of pop culture's history, a dud technology, a symbol of '70s goofiness as potent as the leisure suit.

Despite that—or more likely because of that—8-tracks are embraced by a community of collectors. These 8-track aficionados are music lovers, retro-technophiles, '70s survivors, iconoclasts.

But mostly, they seem like people hip to some really big joke.

"There's a certain humor in playing an 8-track in 2001," said Daniel Gibson, a Texan who sells 8-tracks online with his wife, Kathy.

Cartridges

Everyone who can hum "The Rockford Files" theme knows about 8-tracks. Cartridges popped into a player would shuttle among four musical "programs"—making a distinctive "ka-chik" noise each time. Developed for car audio systems in the '60s, the 8-track format flourished in the '70s before being abandoned in the '80's.

In retrospect, it's easy to see why.

The cartridges were chunkier than cassette tapes. Song sequences were shuffled to fit the four programs (two stereo tracks for each program, thus eight tracks). Maddeningly, some 8-tracks would fade a song out at the end of a program only to fade back in after a "ka-chik." The fidelity could be good, but tapes were prone to snagging.

The latter-day attraction of 8-tracks is a mystery even to the people who collect them—few report becoming a "tracker" intentionally.

Saaf, for instance, fell into it after finding the stereo. The 38-year-old software engineer already had a keen eye for retro-kitsch, evidenced by big-eyed waif paintings hanging on the wall of his Binghamton, New York, area apartment.

A common tracker story involves coming across some old cartridges, then maybe picking up more and more over the years. The next thing you know, you have 20,000 cartridges.

Pioneering tracker

At least that's the way it worked for Malcolm Riviera, a pioneering tracker from Hickory, North Carolina, who maintains the popular www.8trackheaven.com Web site.

LEN Saaf looks through his audio rack in his Endicott, N.Y., home.

"It's the music and the nostalgia and the funkiness of it all," Riviera explains. "And it's a cheap hobby."

Price is certainly a lure—8-tracks can go for under $3 on the Web and 25 cents at thrift stores.

There also is a widespread feeling that 8-tracks are so lame they're lovable, like a runt puppy. Collectors trade tips on the proper care of 8-tracks, like how to replace worn out old pads (weather stripping works well, or a cutup sponge).

Add to this the oddball factor—among the people figuring in the 8-track's history are the inventor of the Lear Jet and a California entrepreneur known as Earl "Madman" Muntz—and the attraction becomes clearer.

But nostalgia might be the biggest draw. Since the format's heyday more or less rose and fell with the '70s, 8-tracks tend to evoke powerful associations with that decade.

Saaf can recall listening to Supertramp in a Monte Carlo owned by his best friend's mom in high school. Riviera remembers listening to his new "Abbey Road" 8-track on Christmas morning 1969 as he played with his sister's Spirograph. He still remembers where those old Beatles songs would fade out to a "ka-chik."

Daniel and Kathy Gibson, who keep a shed full of 8-tracks for sale at 75 cents to $1 a pop in Arlington, Texas, see their typical customer as a guy about their age—39—who maybe bought a Trans Am with an 8-track player and is looking for the music from his youth. *AP*

'Click' Mega Party airs today on GMA

GMA's "Click" *barkada* will hold a Mega Party today at 4 p.m. Cast members like James Blanco, Miko Sotto, Russell C. Mon, Maybeline de la Cruz, Tricia Roman, Cogie Domingo, Alessandra de Rossi, Danica Sotto and Sherwin Ordoñez will be featured in dance and musical numbers. Special guests are Moonstar 88 and Aiza Seguerra.

MONTAGE

'Fashion Revolution'

The Linea Italia Group will mount a "Fashion Revolution" on Aug. 23 at the RCBC Tower on Ayala ave. The fashion show will feature the country's top mannequins and some of Linea Italia's staff wearing collections from Italy's most prestigious fashion houses styled in a military way. The 37th floor of the RCBC Plaza will be decked in military paraphernalia.

Some P100,000 worth of Linea Italia gift certificates will be given away to the best in costume.

Aiza's second single

After the success of "Pagdating ng Panahon," Aiza Seguerra released her second single "Sorry" yesterday at various FM stations.

The song, composed by Edith Gallardo and Babsie Molina and dedicated to Aiza's parents, expresses the singer's regret at the many hurts she has caused and her wish for a brand new start.

'Phantom Menace' on Star Movies

Jedi Master Qui-Gon meets Anakin Skywalker, the young boy destined to bring balance to the Force, in the prologue of George Lucas' "Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace" airing on Aug. 26 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies.

The film features Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman and Jake Lloyd. With replays on Aug. 27 at 1:45 p.m. and Aug. 31at 11 p.m.

Meanwhile, "Star Wars" fans can win a trip to Australia and other exciting prizes by filling up raffle coupons in leading newspapers, TV Star and Guide Magazine. All entries must be received by Aug. 31, 2001.

Sex comedy

Director Cheung Chi-Sing continues his exploration of the relation between love and sex in the comedy "Love and Sex Among the Ruins" on Aug. 22 at 11:15 p.m. on Star Mandarin Movies.

Dayo Wong plays Cheung, a taxi driver who is infatuated with a bar hostess. Knowing that she already has a husband, Cheung goes for a one-night stand and becomes impotent after the brief affair.

THE BEAUTIES FROM "CLICK." From left, Chynna Ortaleza, Miles Poblete, Tricia Roman, Alessandra de Rossi, Maybeline dela Cruz and Roxanne Barcello.

Shocking cargo

It's a tropical mystery tour and an adventure science odyssey in "Adventure Starts Here" every Wednesday at 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel.

An ambiguous set of clues leads Australian adventure scientists Matt Tomaszewski and Jo Rush to an abandoned boat with a shocking cargo, where they discover the real terror of modern day pirates in "Fish Pirates" on Aug. 22.

Kuh in repeat performance

Kuh Ledesma returns to her original home—the Music Museum—for the repeat of her "Kuh Sings Streisand" concert held at the Manila Hotel in June. The repeat goes onstage on Aug. 24 and 25 at 9 p.m. Kuh will be joined by Chad Borja, Side A's Joey Generoso and Regine Velasquez.

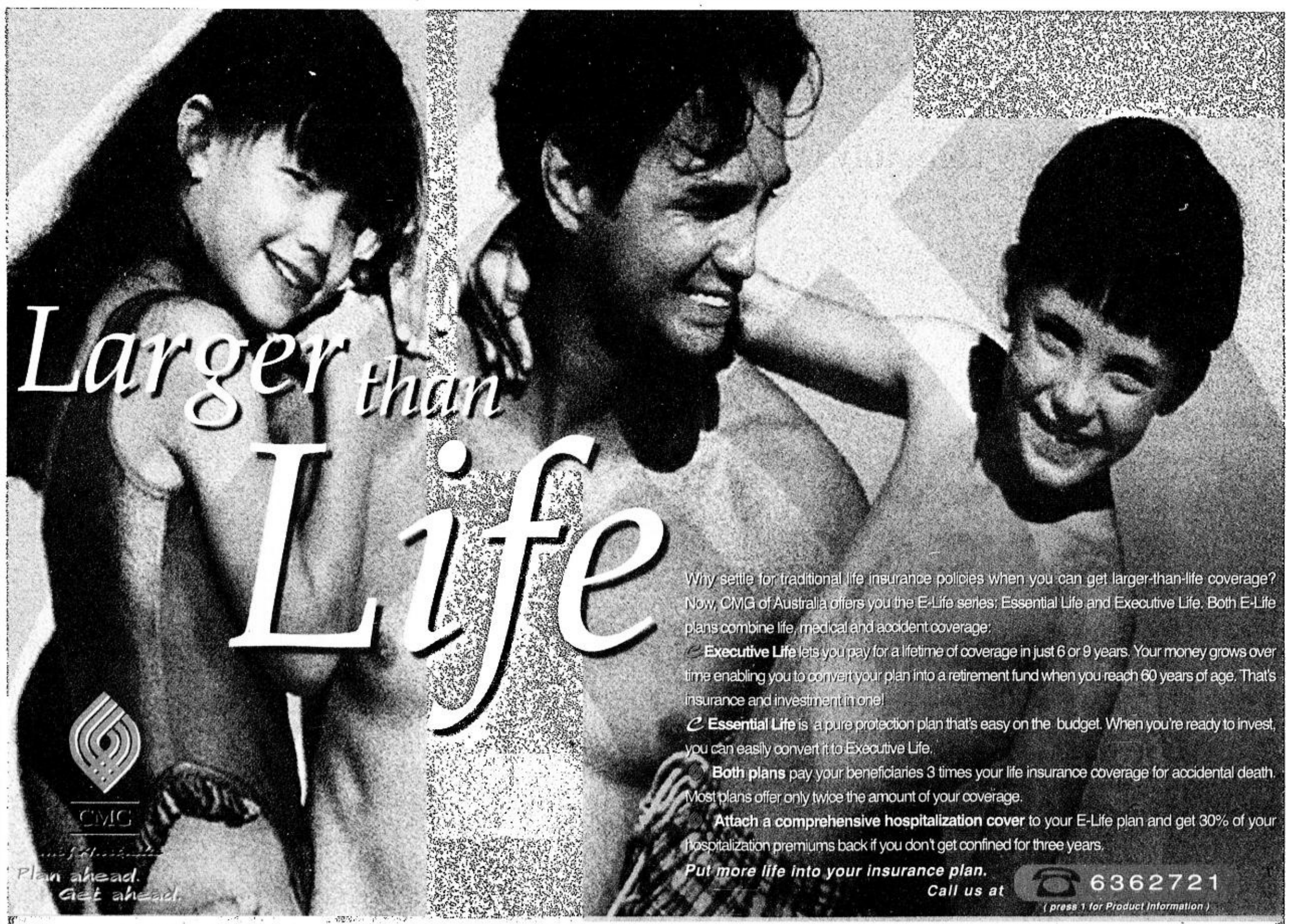
To celebrate her homecoming of sorts, Kuh will roll out a repertoire of classic Streisand hits like "Evergreen," "The Way We Were," "You Don't Bring Me Flowers Anymore" and "People." Call 712-0635.

AIZA. New single.

Search for campus divas

DWRR 101.9 FM recently announced its search for "Campus Diva," a singing competition which aims to discover talented singers in colleges and universities in the city. The search began on Aug. 1 and will run until the elimination round on Sept. 30. More than 20 schools have already confirmed their participation in the contest.

Each school will hold its own prescreening to select contestants for the elimination round. The grand finals will be held on Oct. 6 at the Meralco Theater. The grand prize winner gets P 50,000, the runner-up, P30,000 and the third prize winner, P 20,000. (***Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam***)



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DMC

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1. Buy any twenty-four (24) DMC threads from any participating craftstore nationwide.
2. Collect and cut out the DMC box flaps with security marks "Exclusively Distributed by Focus Global Inc. for Philippine Market Only". The participant will get one (1) box for every single purchase of twelve (12) skeins from a craftstore. So a 24 skeins purchase entitles the participant to two (2) boxes.
3. On the back of two box flaps, write or type your name, address, telephone number, if any, and affix your signature. Write or print also the name and address of store where DMC threads were bought. Or, the store owner may write his store name and address before giving the box to participant. For the participant's and store owner's protection, any erasures or corrections on the flap will disqualify the entry.
4. Enclose 24 skein bands or labels with bar code and the 2 box flaps in a WHITE LEGAL-SIZE envelop with area coverage such as Luzon/GMA, Visayas or Mindanao indicated at the back. Skein bands without the bar code and incomplete entries will be disqualified.
5. Mail entries to: "DMC Family On Wheels" c/o Focus Global Inc. Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City 1550. Or, drop entries in designated dropboxes at selected craftstores nationwide, or in the drop box located at Focus Global Inc.
6. One envelop, one entry. Send as many entries as you want. The more entries, the more chances of winning.
7. Only entries received on or before October 31, 2001 will be included in the draw.
8. Raffle Draw will be held on Nov. 15, 2001 at 4 pm at the Display Room, 2/F Focus Global Bldg., in the presence of a DTI representative.
9. A participant can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she shall get the bigger prize.
10. Winners will be notified by registered mail and will be announced in a leading national daily newspaper. Prizes may be claimed at the Focus Global Inc. office upon presentation of a valid ID. Consolation prizes of provincial winners will be sent by courier.
11. Prizes are tax-paid. Car prize is not convertible to cash. Prizes not redeemed within 60 days after notification will be forfeited upon approval of DTI.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0173 Series of 2001

Arista Records re-signs Houston to a $100 million, multi-album contract

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

NEW YORK—Arista Records is saving all its love—and money—for Whitney Houston.

The Grammy-winning superstar has signed a multi-album record deal with Arista that the label said was in excess of $100 million.

The deal would appear to top Mariah Carey's recent signing to Virgin Records, which was said to be worth about $20 million per album.

HOUSTON. Has gone into movie production.

Excited

"I am so excited with this new deal and I'm looking forward to going into the studio soon to start work on my next album," Houston said in a statement. "Arista Records has been my home since the beginning of my career. I am happy to be continuing the relationship and I look forward to working with (Arista president) L.A. Reid and the new Arista family."

Houston is Arista's best-selling artist, having sold more than 140 million records worldwide and charting numerous No. 1 hits, including "The Greatest Love of All," "I Will Always Love You" and "Saving All My Love For You."

She was signed to the label by Arista's founder and former leader, Clive Davis, who left Arista last year and started J Records.

Acting

Since her debut in 1985, Houston has delivered nothing but platinum records for Arista. She has also branched out into acting, starring in the hit "The Bodyguard" and other movies such as "Waiting to Exhale."

But her last album of original material, "My Love Is Your Love," was not as successful as her previous discs, although it sold more than 1 million copies.

The singer's reputation was also tarnished last year after erratic behavior sparked rumors that she might be abusing drugs, a charge she denied. However, last September, prosecutors in Hawaii said they found marijuana in her purse.

A petty misdemeanor drug charge was dismissed against Houston earlier this year after a drug counselor filed an assessment with prosecutors stating that Houston did not require treatment for substance abuse.

Besides acting and singing, Houston has expanded into producing movies. Besides the successful Disney special "Cinderella," starring pop singer Brandy, Houston is the executive director of the new film "The Princess Diaries." *AP*

Star lookalikes audition for Boy George musical

LONDON—Flamboyant '80s icon Boy George has launched a hunt for a lookalike to play him in a new musical he has written about his rollercoaster life of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll with the chart-topping Culture Club.

Outrageous clothes

More than 200 hopefuls, sporting Boy George makeup and outrageous clothes, turned up for a central London audition for "Taboo."

The singer, who has made a new career for himself as a disc jockey, said at the hunt through the hopefuls: "The reason we decided on an open audition was because we felt we might easily stumble upon a gem of a person that we might not get from an agency."

Boy George, who now openly admits he is gay but kept his relationship with Culture Club drummer Jon Moss secret at the start of the group's meteoric rise to fame, said the musical was all about not fitting in.

"There are a lot of people out there who still feel they do not fit in and I still have people coming up to me and saying your childhood was exactly like mine," he said.

"The message really is that no matter what someone looks like, they are still a person and that is what the show is about," he added.

Hopefuls

Among the hopefuls waiting to hear if this would be their big break was Boy George tribute singer Keith George who said: "I am a huge fan and have a lot of respect for him, he is just fantastic."

The singer has penned 15 news songs for "Taboo," named after the London nightclub where he spent much of his youth.

Boy George will be following in the footsteps of two other pop icons, The Pet Shop Boys, whose musical "Closer to Heaven" is currently running in London's theatreland.

Culture Club, which topped the charts in the '80s with "Do you really want to hurt me?" and "Karma Chameleon" have since re-formed and toured the world. *Reuters*

BOY GEORGE. His musical is all about not fitting in.

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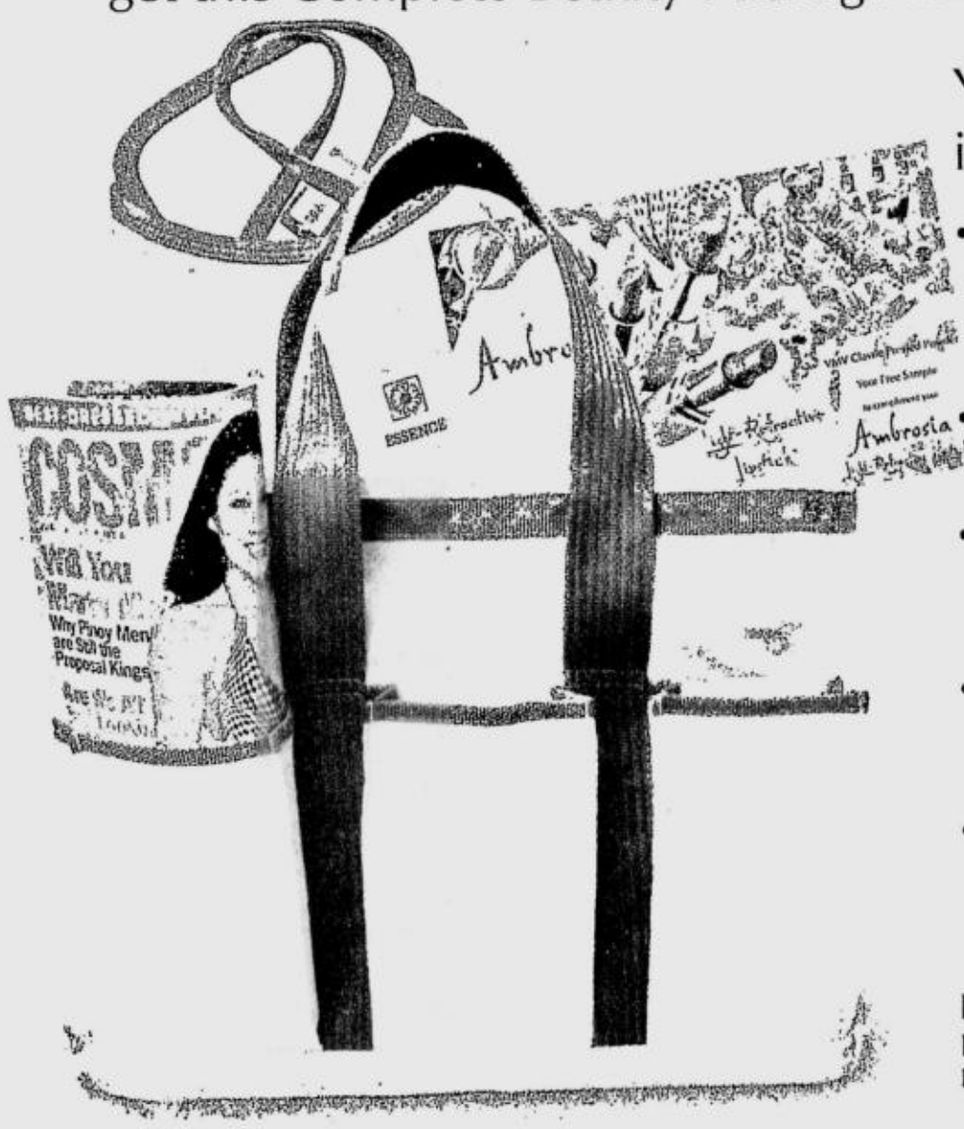

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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2001 ✧ 12 PAGES ✧ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 44

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JI wizards storm castle PDI

BY MARIELLE S. DELA CRUZ
UP INTEGRATED SCHOOL

THE CASTLE Philippine Daily Inquirer was a big blue thing, four stories high, with a big corkscrew staircase leading to the top. It looked quite impressive. My mother and I went up to the second floor, where my magical training would begin.

We were greeted by Prof. Marlet (Marlet Salazar to you!) and Prof. Nats, the headmistress of the JI School of Magic (that's Natasha Vizcarra, editor of Junior Inquirer) and later Prof. Robin (Robin is the nickname of Christine Rivero, staff writer). Two kids were already there.

I signed my name in and was given a nametag and found my chair. We were quiet and we just stared at each other.

I thought about the time when I got the "letter" (delivered by newspaper boys!) telling me I was one of the lucky 11 kids who were accepted into the JI. I was surprised because the test happened a long time ago, a test designed to check out our wizard writing skills. I took the test and forgot all about it. So imagine how happy I was when I realized I was a JI wizard!

The rest of my fellow wizards came and I sized them up at once. I think we would all get along just fine.

By now, we were all seated, wearing nametags and clutching our contributor's manual. As I looked around, I realized everyone was just as excited as I was. I grinned. We just couldn't wait to get things started!

"Gettin' to know you all. . . ."

First, there was this getting-to-know-you activity, where we said the customary name, age and school, plus the character you would be if you were in an anime, or a storybook character.

My fellow JI wizards were Anna Arcellana,12 and from Miriam College Grade School In Quezon City. Andrew Cie is 10 and from Brent International School in Laguna. There was Cathy Dolendo, 11, from Woodrose School in Alabang and Alexis Dy was from Immaculate Conception Academy in Greenhills and she is 11 too. Stephanie Ferrer is 11 and she's from St. Joseph's College in Quezon City.Kim Guzman is 10 and from Poveda, Mandaluyong City. Joan Ilagan is 12 and from Veritas Parochial School in Parañaque. Nina Lualhati is 10 and she is the one from St. Benedict's College in Alabang. Michael Manangu is 10 and he is from Colegio de San Agustin in Makati. And Joji is 10 and she's from the same school as your's truly. Oh, and by the way, I am Marielle dela Cruz,12 years old.

After that, Prof. Nats answered our questions, which incidentally was mostly from me and Michael.That done,we moved on to the most exciting part of the day, the tour!

The Tour around Castle PDI

Prof. Nats was in charge of the parents, and she took them around. Prof. Robin took care of the new wizards and before we went we had to pose for pictures, an activity the other kids didn't seem to relish, so it took us a long time.

JI wizards/p.4

JI CORRESPONDENTS 2001. (First row, from left) Miggy, Kim; (second row) Marielle, Cathy, Joji, Steph and Niña; (third row) Joan, Anna, Andrew and Alexis.

DENNIS SABANGAN

WORLD SCOPE

Sand Art

ARTISTS work on their sand sculpture at the beach of Zeebrugge, 120 kilometers west of Brussels. About 60 sand artists from all over the world worked together during the annual sand sculpture festival. This year's theme is: "Dinosaurs, Giants on the Beach." ***AP***

Zeebrugge, Belgium

Come again?

A WAITER wearing Santa Claus costume serves customers at a Seoul restaurant. Confusing as it may sound, this restaurant's specialty is to offer "coolness" to customers who want to escape the summer heat by chilling out on garden chairs. Must be warmer indoors. ***AP***

Seoul, South Korea

Northern, Australia

London, England

Beijing, China

Solo Spirit

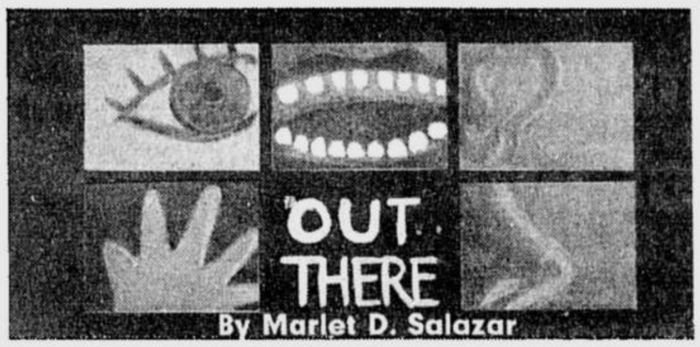
AMERICAN adventurer Steve Fossett's balloon rises as he set out on his sixth attempt in the Solo Spirit balloon to make the first solo flight around the world at an airport 96 kilometers east of Perth. Fossett's last solo flight ended in near disaster in 1998, when a thunderstorm off Australia shredded his canopy and sent him plummeting 29,000 feet into the Coral Sea. ***AP***

Royalty 101

BRITAIN'S Queen Mother looks like she'd rather spend her 101st birthday at home. The photo shows her arriving at London's Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to round off her 101st birthday celebrations with a visit to a ballet. ***AP***

Eye on You

A CHINESE boy walks past a display on the human brain. Hundreds of Chinese students visit the Beijing Science and Technology museum every year. ***AP***



Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Contests

ART CONTEST. Calling all artists ages 8-12 years old! Join Museo Pambata's art contest and get a chance to visit the United States as a representative to the International Child Art Festival! The theme is "The Filipino Child in the New Millennium." You may use any art medium and your artwork should measure 18" x 24" (45 cm x 60 cm.). Submit with it a brief explanation of the artwork and a photocopy of your birth certificate on or before Aug. 24. Call Des at 523-1797 to 98 for more details. Or drop by Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila.

WANTED PERFORMERS! The Jollibee Kids Workshop Talent Circle is now looking for kids 13 years old and below who love to perform onstage. If you think you have what it takes call up the following branches for audition:

* Acting and singing: Call up Jollibee-Kalookan LRT at 361-7850, 361-7873, look for Lani Carandang. Or Jollibee Royal Family Mall, 984-5398 to 99 look for Pearl Lacanlale.

* Drums and bugle: Call up Jollibee Sta. Lucia Phase 1 at 645-5716, 645-0553, look for Cindy Cruz

* Drums and lyre: Call up Jollibee Grand Central at 363-5653, 363-5502, look for Jennifer Chua

* Band performers: Call up Jollibee Sta. Lucia Grand Mall at 681-5132, 681-7320, look for Rian Torrefranca. Or call Greenwich Grand Central at 363-5401, look for Cheryl Alferez

BE A STORYTELLER. Museo Pambata and Alitaptap Storytellers Club will hold a storytelling contest for children: Level I—preschoolers to Grade 2 students; Level 2—Grade 3 to Grade 6 students. Out of school children can present a copy of their birth certificate. Registration forms are available at the Museo Pambata Resource Center. Registration fee is P100. For details, please call Des or Noreen at 5231797 to 98.

Workshop

CREATE YOUR BOOK CHARACTERS! Ang INK member Brendan Goco will conduct a workshop on Character Development. The session wll focus on how to come up with characters for a book and will be held today at 9-12 a.m. at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila located at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Participants are requested to brin at least 3 pieces of tracing paper and other art materials. For details call up the 523-7855.

Play

RIZAL'S "NOLI" ONSTAGE. Watch Gantimpala Theater's adaptation of Jose Rizal's novel "Noli Me Tangere." The stage adaptation by Jomar Fleras is titled "Kanser." Stage and TV actors Richard Quan, Adriana Agcaoili, and Mon Confiado leads the cast. Performances on Aug. 24-25 are scheduled at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at RFC Theater/Cinema in Las Piñas. For details, bookings, please call up 899-5745, 897-1533, 897-9986 and 895-8314 or you can send an email to:gantimpala@pacific.net.ph

Film Showing

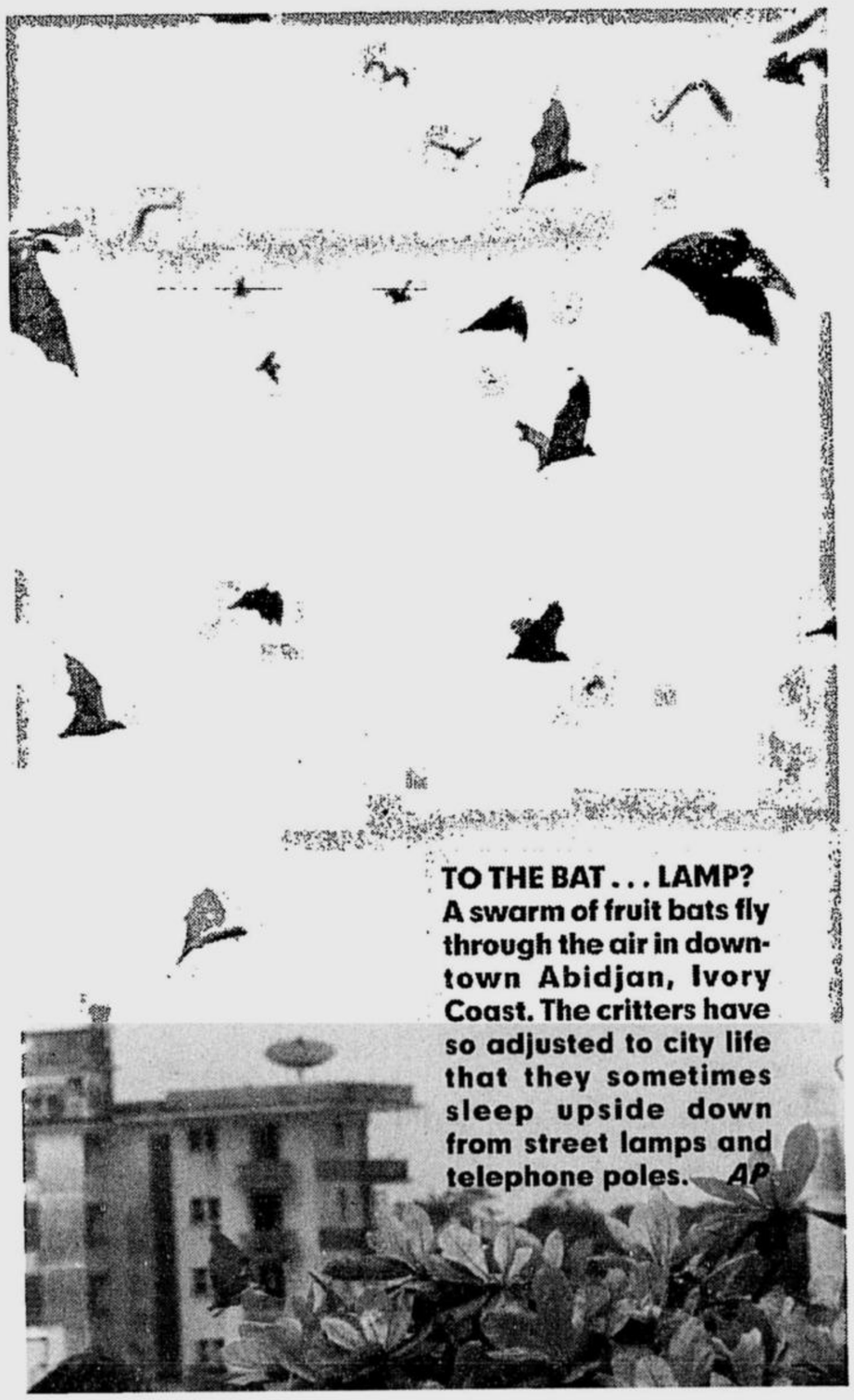
ANIME ON PARADE. The Japan Foundation Manila Office and the UP Film Center invited anime fans out there to the opening night of "Nihon Eiga Sai 2000: Anime on Parade. It's an anime film festival featuring "Night on the Galactic Railroad" directed by Gisaburoh Sugii. it will be held on Aug. 21 at 7:30 p.m., UP Film Center located along Magsaysay Avenue, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City. Admission is free! For inquiries call up 811-6155 to 58, fax 811-6153 or email cstamaria@jfmo.org.ph or visit www.jfmo.org.ph

Museum Moments

BE A CARTOONIST. Come and listen to Tonton Young, creator of "Pupung" comics as he shares tips on how to become a good cartoonist. "Paglaki Ko, Gusto Kong Maging Kartunista" is on Aug. 25, 10 am, at the Karapatan Hall of Museo Pambata. For inquiries call 523-1797 to 98. Or drop by Museo Pambata Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila.

Ivory Coast-Bat City

In Ivory Coast's Abidjan, soaring bats give city gothic edge



TO THE BAT . . . LAMP? A swarm of fruit bats fly through the air in downtown Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The critters have so adjusted to city life that they sometimes sleep upside down from street lamps and telephone poles. ***AP***

PICTURE this: It's dusk. You're walking home from school when hundreds of thousands of bats swarm above your head and settle on the trees and telephone poles of your neighborhood.

A pretty bad situation, eh?

Well, in the town of Abidjan in the Ivory Coast, residents experience this every single day. In fact, they are not scared of bats anymore. They've learned to live with them.

In other parts of the world, bat colonies often live in dark caves secluded from humans. But Abidjan's population has clearly adapted to urban life.

Most try to get shut-eye hanging from treetops in Plateau, the bustling business district in the city center.

But it's not easy sleeping in town.

The bats have to put up not only with the tropical heat and intense humidity, but also diesel fumes, incessant honking of car horns and cries from street vendors trying to make a sale.

The bats never attack humans. Unfortunately, the people of Abidjan do not return the favor.

For Hossou D. Fuslin, a native of Benin, bats are a ritual part of voodoo magic that his ancestors have practiced for centuries.

"Some people eat them, but for people like me it is forbidden. I'm a healer-consultant. I use them for work," Fuslin says while reclining on a couch at his blue-walled home.

For those in need—and who have the money—Fuslin promises to boost the number of clients at failing bars and restaurants.

The formula is simple: Take one chameleon, one hawk, one parrot and one bat, cook together with leaves over a fire and mash into a powder. Wrap the mixture in a white sheet and bury in the ground—or hide behind a picture or a painting—at the entrance of the establishment.

"In 30 days, you'll see the results," Fuslin says confidently, a creeping grin framing the large gap between his front teeth.

He says each ingredient has a certain power: Chameleons change things. Bats attract things.

"There is no place in Abidjan that's popular, that's full of life, that hasn't used something like this," Fuslin says.

Outside his house, a deep blue spreads across the horizon. A car's headlights illuminate the narrow dirt street. A few children play barefoot near the doorway.

Few take notice of the bats fluttering overhead, their wings silhouetted against the fading sky as they move together into the villages beyond. ***AP***

JI wizards (from page 1)

And off we went.

We explored all the floors, beginning at the bottom and working our way to the top. There were a lot of "classes" going on, specially in the second floor, very busy ones, all working very hard to be able to present next day's "seatworks" and "assignments".

The third floor and fourth floor or literally, the roof, were to me more interesting than those below, because it was much quieter and it houses all those special editions like 2bu!,Sunday Inquirer Magazine and all the others. But the JI office was, naturally, the best one of all!

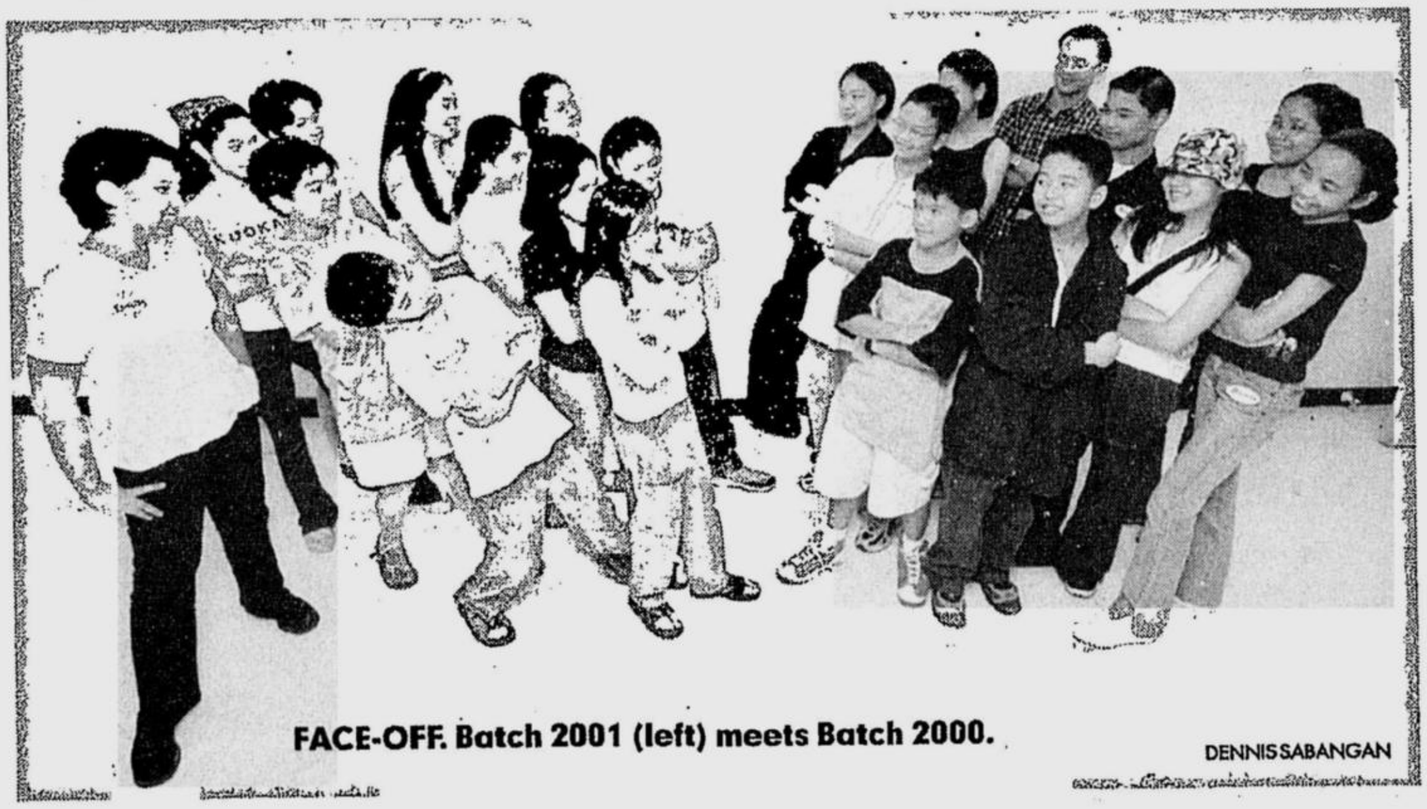
It had all these photos and statues of cats and pictures of dogs and a fish mobile too. It was also the spaciest.

When you have fun, and heck, the tour was fun, you tend to overlap a bit which is why we didn't have time to do this article there. After the tour, there was the feast to look forward to!

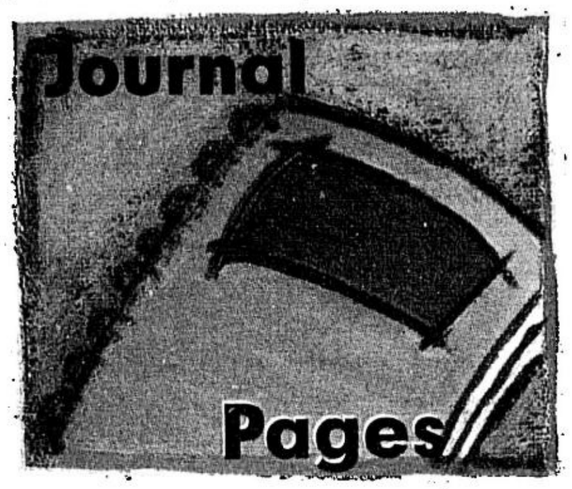
The Feast in the Great Pantry

We kids all filed into the Great Pantry to have the traditional Feast, after a few words by Prof. Nats and Prof. Robin. The first and second batches who were present shared stories about their favorite assignments. And then we had McDo's chicken and spaghetti. There was even a Gravy-Eating Contest, and I lost to Michael, but then again we were the only contestants.

All in all, the afternoon was great fun. But then, JI is always fun! I bet me and the rest of the "writing wizards" are in for a fun "schoolyear"!



FACE-OFF. Batch 2001 (left) meets Batch 2000. DENNIS SABANGAN



My Wonderful Trumpets Playshop Experience

BY MA. CRISTINA IGNACIO REYES
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

I WOULD like to tell you about the best summer class I ever took.

It was a nice April 2 morning. My cousin and I rushed with my mom to the Shangri-La Plaza playshop. I was so nervous!

When we got to Children's Musical Theater C, everyone else was already there. Most kids I saw were quite anxious too.

At first we had to know each other's names. In order to remember these, we associated them with actions. Then we played some games. These involved pretending to be in situation where you have to act well. There was also of trust. We also shared each other's thoughts and feelings. We also told each other about the things we were thankful for. But still we didn't talk to each other much. We only talked to our close friends and if ever we would talk to someone else, we would be shy or talk only a bit.

Each day of the workshop, we would start and end with a prayer to God. After a while some new classmates came and some needed to join another class. Suddenly the class became closer to each other. People became friendlier too.

After knowing each other's names well and gaining trust and friendship, it was Talent Day! Talent day is when you have to show your talent to the teacher by singing, acting or dancing and whatsoever. We were all nervous and we all prepared well. No one wanted to volunteer but finally everyone signed. We all did our talents and then we all relaxed!

After that came the giving of the script and the parts. The play is called "Fables and Parables." It was a combination of all sorts of fables and parables so everyone got more than a part or two. Everyone was excited!

I noticed there was already a certain bond between us. Everyone talked a lot now with each other and I mean a lot! Even girls chatted with the boys! We were finally a true class! We were all anxious but we were quite noisy and not concentrating. Some teachers got frustrated. WE had our potluck party because it was our last day of rehearsal. We did one more run.

Finally came our play! It was pretty good. Finally we did it! There were some mistakes but it was good! Very good!

I learned that when your work as a team your goal will be accomplished well. And I learned about forgiving and forgetting. And in a team we must always have friendship.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Girl Power

I'VE HEARD that men always say women are not useful and that we should only stick to housekeeping. Here's my point of view: they are so wrong! Girls can be anything they want to be! We should have equal rights. Girls can do whatever men can do! They have the power to choose what they want to be when they grow-up! So no boy should bully girls and insist that men are better than they are. They are not! We are equal human beings! So if you are a girl and you're ashamed, don't be. Be very proud of who and what you are! Girls have a unique power and that's GIRL POWER! I hope this does not offend guys around the world.—**DEBORAH BAYBAY**, 11, Miriam College Grade School

Junior Inquirer

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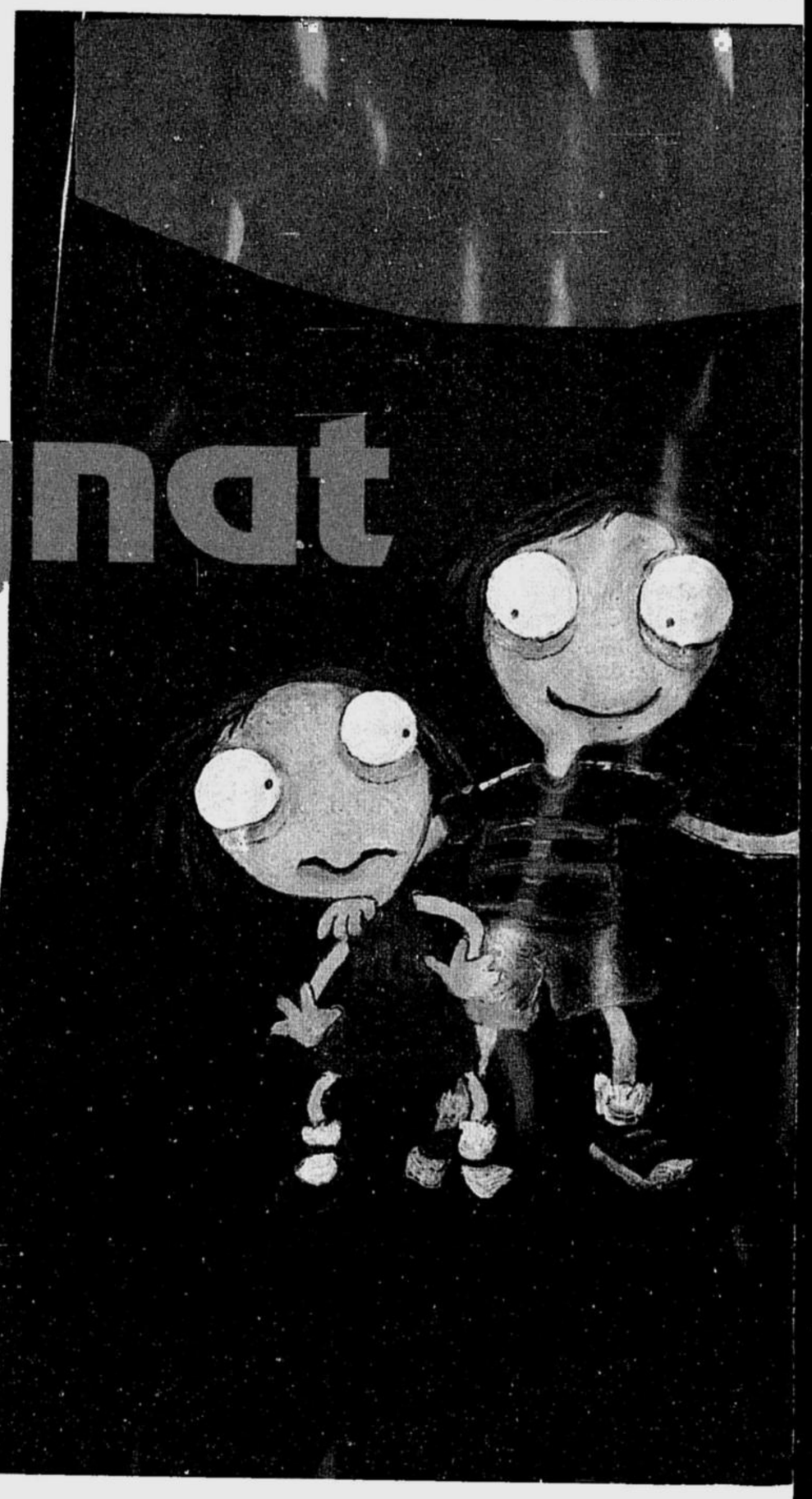
FOR or By KIDS

Nang Nilagnat si Yaffa

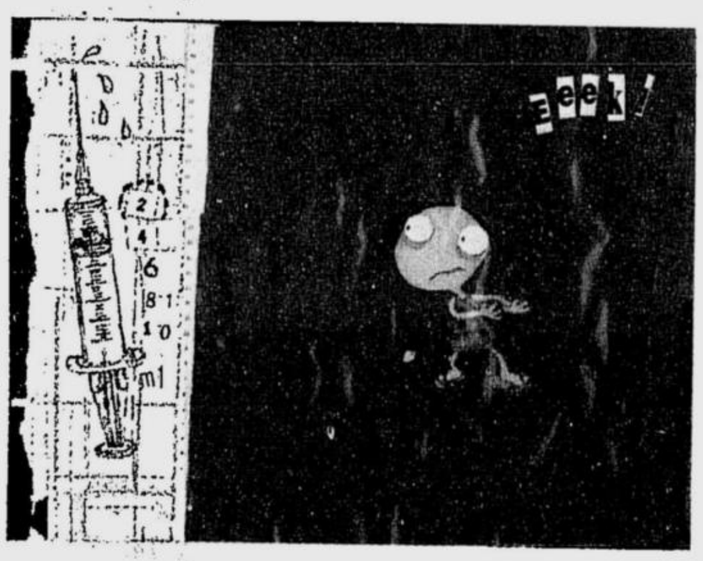


KUWENTO NI GODFREY T. DANCEL
GUHIT NI LYRA ABUEG GARCELLANO

MAHIGIT kalahating oras na sa loob ng silid sina Andrei at Yaffa. Kahit ano ang sabihin ni Andrei, ayaw pa ring magbihis ang kanyang kapatid.

"Ading," malambing na sabi ni Andrei. "Magbihis ka na."

"Ayaw ko! Ayaw ko!" sabi ng bunso.



Sa susunod na linggo pa dapat sila pupunta para magpa-*check-up* sa *clinic*, pero napaaga ang punta nila dito dahil sa lagnat ni Yaffa.

"Sige na, Ading. Pupunta tayo kay Tita Doktor. Gagamutin niya ang lagnat mo."

"Ayaw ko Kuya! Takot ako sa iniksiyon."

"Hindi masakit 'yon. Parang kagat lamang ng langgam," paliwanag ni Andrei.

"Ganito naman kalaki ang langgam!"

Sabay tumawa ang magkapatid. Maya-maya pa, magka-akbay na silang lumabas ng silid.

Laging ganito ang nangyayari kapag nagtatampo o may ayaw gawin si Yaffa. Kakausapin lamang siya ng kanyang Kuya Andrei at papayag na ito.

"Handa na po kami, Daddy, Mommy," nakangiting sabi ni Andrei. Sa likod niya'y nagtatago si Yaffa na waring nahihiya.

"Kung gayon, tayo na at tanghali na," sagot ni Daddy.

"Siyanga. Naghihintay na si Tita Doktor," sambit ni Mommy.

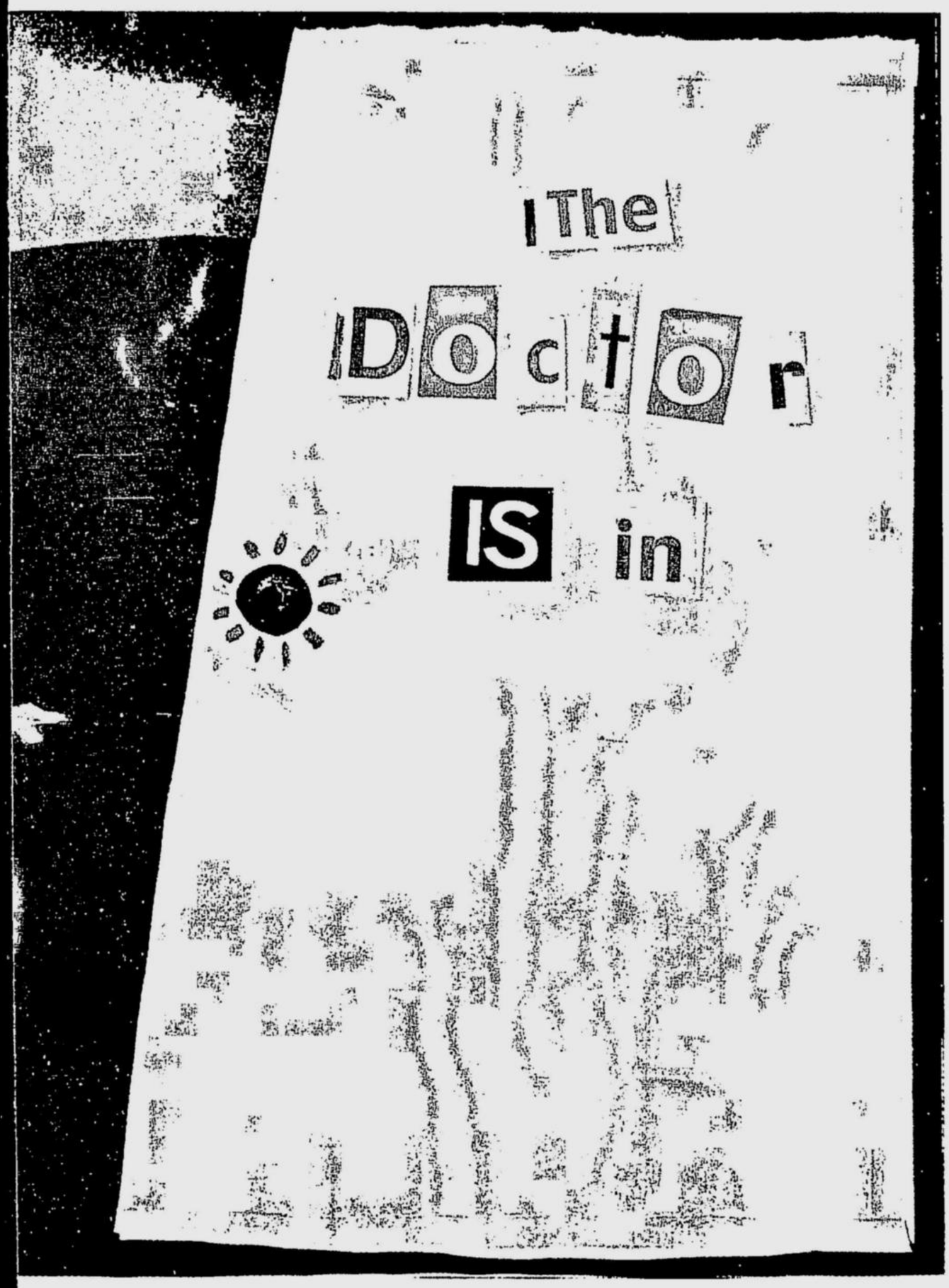
PAGDATING sa clinic, agad na yumakap sina Andrei at Yaffa kay Tita Nora.

"Kumusta na kayo?" tanong nito.

"Mabuti po, Tita Doktor," sabay na sagot ng magkapatid.

"O, Yaffa, akala ko ba, may lagnat ka? Di ka naman mukhang may sakit, ah," ani Tita Nora.

Ngumiti lamang si Yaffa. Medyo kinakabahan pa rin



Ayaw ko ya! Takot ako sa iksiyon"

siya. Napansin ito ni Andrei at hinawakan ang kamay ng kapatid.

"Huwag kang matakot, Ading. Nandito naman ako para samahan ka," aniya.

Matapos ang maikling kamustahan, tinawag na ni Tita Nora si Andrei. Kinuha niya ang tangkad at timbang nito. Tinignan din niya kung may anumang sakit ito. Awa ng Diyos, wala naman.

"Napakabilis mong lumaki," bulalas ni Tita Nora. "At bumigat ka na naman. Kumain kang mabuti at mag-*exercise* upang manatili kang malusog."

"Opo," sagot ni Andrei.

"O Yaffa, ikaw naman," sabi ni Tita Nora habang inihahanda ang thermometer at stethoscope.

Biglang natakot si Yaffa! Tumakbo ito palabas ng clinic. Mabuti na lamang at nahabol siya ng kanyang nanay at tatay.

"Huwag kang matakot, Yaffa," sabi ng kanyang tatay.

"Oo nga, anak. Sasamahan ka naman nina Daddy at Kuya," sabi ni Mommy. "Halika na at kakargahin na kita."

Pagbalik sa clinic, hindi na bumitaw si Yaffa sa pagkayakap sa kanyang nanay. Nagpakandong na lamang ito sa kanya. Tinawag din niya ang kanyang Kuya Andrei at pinaupo sa kanyang tabi. Samantala, tumayo sa kanilang likuran si Daddy.

Mabilis lamang ang ginawang *check-up* ni Tita Nora.

"Wala naman akong makitang dahilan upang lagnatin ka," sabi ni Tita Nora. Maliban lang kung. . ."

Sandaling nag-isip si Tita Nora. Maya-maya, tinignan niya ang gilagid ni Yaffa.

"Ayan, kaya ka naman pala nilalagnat. May tumubo kang bagong ngipin. Madaragdagan na naman ang ngipin mo."

Napangiti si Yaffa. "Di hindi niyo po ako iiniksiyunan?"

"Hindi na. Magpahinga ka na lamang at uminom ng maraming tubig at *juice*."

"Salamat po, Tita Doktor," sabi ni Yaffa, sabay lundag sa sahig. "Salamat hindi ninyo ako ininiksiyunan!"

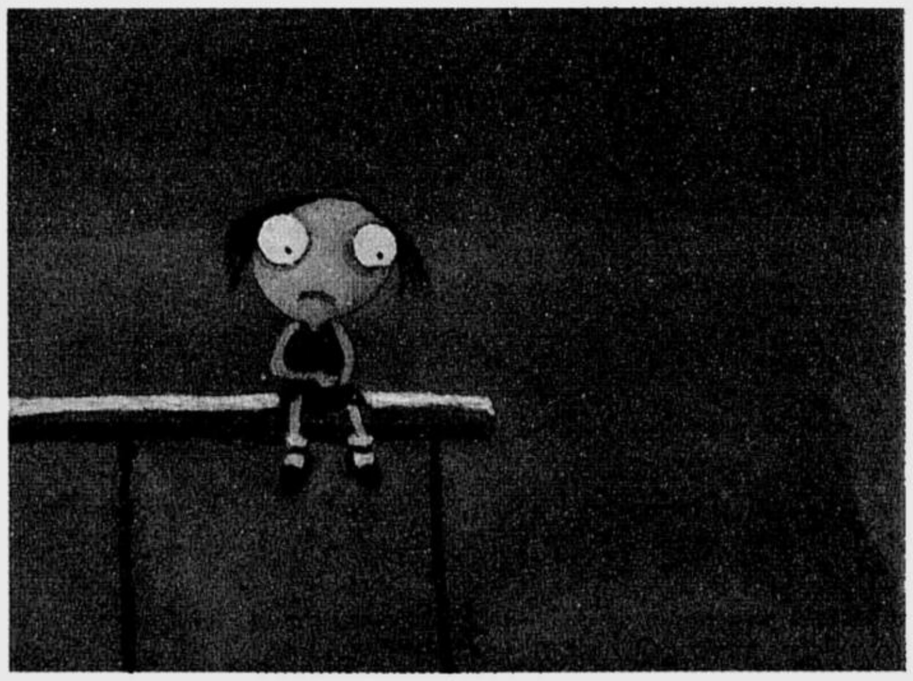
"Kitam!" sabi ni Andrei at inakbayan ang kanyan Ading.

Nagkatinginan sina Andrei, Daddy, Mommy at Tita Nora. Napuno ng galak and *clinic* sa sabay nilang pagtawa.

---

*Sinulat ni **Godfrey** ang kuwentong ito para sa kanyang asawang si Ann at ang kanyang anak na si "Balonglong" Andrei.*

*Si **Lyra** ang may pakana ng "The Adventures of Atomo and Weboy the Buddha Bear." Umiinom siya ng tsokolate araw-araw.*



Clean Act

Whether it's chores or homework, Denise does everything with a smile

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

"I DON'T WANNA CLEAN UP! THE MAID CAN CLEAN UP MY MESS! I WANNA WATCH TV!"

Ooohhh, nasty.

Lots of kids, we know, have felt that way when grown-ups ask them to help tidy up the house, especially when the mess is the kind of tangled, can't-see-the-floor-anymore, tornado-beating chaos only kids can make.

Thankfully, there are also nice kids, like 8-year-old Ma. Denise Isabel Avis who not only cleans up after herself, but also cheerfully helps with other chores too.

The take-charge kid

Without ever needing to be told, Denise picks up a broom and sweeps the house when she sees the slightest layer of dust forming. She also waters the plants and helps in fixing the bed and setting the table for meals. After chowing down, Denise just doesn't run off to watch TV but also helps clear the table too.

"Denise likes everything organized, maybe because I like everything organized too," Denise's mom beams. She told us about the time when their maid left and Denise volunteered to help with all the chores immediately.

"Denise is very sweet that way," her mom adds, "and very responsible."

So responsible, that Denise is also in the Top 10 of her class at Sta. Rosa de Lima Parochial School in Pasig City. Every day, Denise says, after helping with chores, she also makes sure she does her homework.

"I read the instructions carefully," she informs us, "so that I won't get the wrong answer."

SPARKLY SMILE for shiny dishes.

BREAKTIME is scooter time for Denise.

Photos by DENNIS SABANGAN

On the go

Not one to enjoy being idle, Denise goes around her neighborhood on her scooter or on her bike when she's taking a break from studying and helping at home. She enjoys learning how to dance too. "I like modern dancing," she says but Denise has also learned to do some ballroom dancing moves, "like cha-cha and swing."

Last summer, Denise even taught herself how to swim. She was with her cousins at a resort in Tanay, Rizal, and she began by floating in the pool in a life vest. Then, suddenly, she asked that her life vest be removed.

"I was feeling good," Denise says, grinning, "and I just balanced my body."

Realizing she wouldn't sink if she spread out her body in a certain way, Denise discovered the basics of floating. With a little more instructions from her cousins, Denise was swimming away.

Doing chores = Happy parents

Denise is the kind of kid who'll always do things by herself if she can, especially when she knows she'll be helping other people out.

Says Denise, "Parents are already tired while working in the office, then, if there are still chores to do, they'll get even more tired when they get home."

"Kids," she adds, "need to help their parents so that they won't have such a hard time."

Well, JI reader, how about checking ASAP if Mom and Dad could use your help too?

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a **free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at

_____

and studies at

_____

Her/his contact number is:

_____

Sender's Name:

_____

Sender's Age & School:

_____

Sender's Address:

_____

Sender's Contact No.

It All Began with Ginger

From farmer to radio host with a mission, this is the story of Angelo Palmones

BY **CHRISTINE C. RIVERO**

PLANTING rice is never fun, according to the song, but planting ginger is worse, according to Angelo "*Kuya* Angel" Palmones.

Kuya Angel, the host of "Bago 'Yan, Ah!" a science discovery radio program for kids on DZMM, used to plant ginger in his family's farm in Mindanao, while he was still in elementary school.

"You haven't experienced real farming if you've never tried planting ginger," he begins.

"You need to crawl on the ground, because you must make sure that the ginger you are planting is standing," he says, "standing in such a way that the 'eye' where the shoots will come out will be on top."

While in the field, *Kuya* Angel found a way to make his tedious work amusing. "I started to talk to myself aloud," he says. Some people thought he was crazy. But *Kuya* Angel explains that's how his vocal chords developed.

"Besides, in radio, you're like a crazy person anyway because you're talking only to a microphone," he adds with a chuckle.

Kuya Angel was still in college in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, when he got his first job as a reporter for a local radio station. You could call it an "action-packed" beginning because, on one of his earliest assignments, *Kuya* Angel, along with some other journalists, was caught by MNLF rebels.

"They saw that our equipment were packed in a military bag and because I was still enrolled in ROTC, I sported a crew cut. They then suspected us of being military spies," he narrates.

After a nervous exchange of words, the rebels finally believed they were journalists and let them go. Instead of scaring *Kuya* Angel, though, he says, "That experience triggered more interest on my part to pursue a career as a broadcaster."

Today, *Kuya* Angel is the big boss of DZMM, ABS-CBN's AM radio station. Aside from "Bago 'Yan, Ah!" he hosts other programs. Apart from reading and reporting the news, though, *Kuya* Angel believes that journalists have a responsibility to help those they are reporting about too.

"It should no longer be a question of reporting that someone is dying or helping that person first," he says. He'd like to see the day when all journalists would know "how to respond to emergencies and give more respect, more dignity to life."

Already *Kuya* Angel has started with the training of the DZMM reporters and he's got other projects in the works. From that field of ginger, *Kuya* Angel has come a long way and he intends to go even farther.

FIELD OF DREAMS. *Kuya* Angel doesn't just want to report the news, he also wants to help those he reports about.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate _____.

He/She is ____ years old and is my _____.

Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:

1) _____;
2) _____;
3) _____;
4) _____;
and
5) _____.

My nominee lives at _____ _____.

Give him/her a call at _____

or send him/her an e-mail at _____.

By the way,
I'm _____.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is _____.

You may call me at _____.

Presidential Middle Names

HOW'S your stock of Philippine presidential trivia? Good enough to know their middle names? OK, let's find out if you can get Malacañang's seal of approval by choosing the right one in each number. Some could be fairly familiar, although you might need your dad's or *lolo's* help with the rest. (By the way, tomorrow's the 123rd birth anniversary of Manuel L. Quezon. So here's a tip: His middle name doesn't actually start with "L.")

1. Gloria M. Macapagal-Arroyo
   A. Martinez B. Macaraeg C. Munoz

2. Joseph M. Ejercito Estrada
   X. Marcelo Y. Morales Z. Montano

3. Fidel V. Ramos
   A. Villanueva B. Verzosa C. Valdez

4. Corazon S. Cojuangco-Aquino
   X. Santos Y. Sumulong Z. Salvador

5. Ferdinand E. Marcos
   A. Estrella B. Evangelista C. Edralin

6. Diosdado P. Macapagal
   X. Paredes Y. Pangan Z. Palileo

7. Carlos P. Garcia
   A. Polestico B. Perfecto C. Purugganan

8. Ramon F. Magsaysay
   X. Fortuno Y. Flavier Z. Del Fierro

9. Elpidio R. Quirino
   A. Rivera B. Raymundo C. Resureccion

10. Manuel A. Roxas
    X. Albano Y. Acuna Z. Amante

11. Manuel Luis M. Quezon
    A. Molina B. Marquez C. Maravilla

12. Jose Paciano G. Laurel
    X. Guerrero Y. Garcia Z. Guzman

Answers:

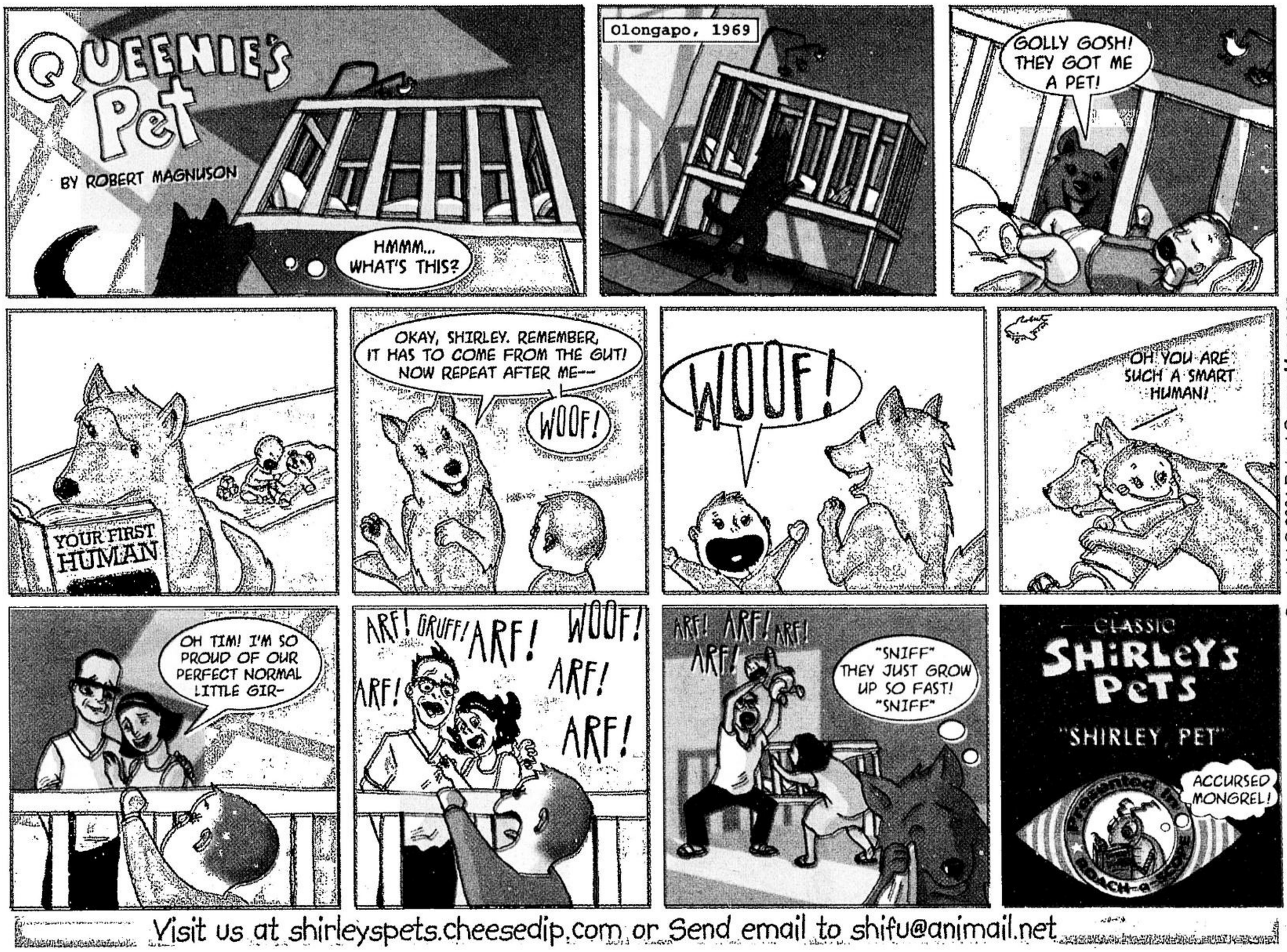
1. B 2. X 3. C 4. Y 5. C 6. Y 7. Z 8. A 9. Y 10. A 11. Y

Ratings :

11 – 12

9 – 10

6 – 8



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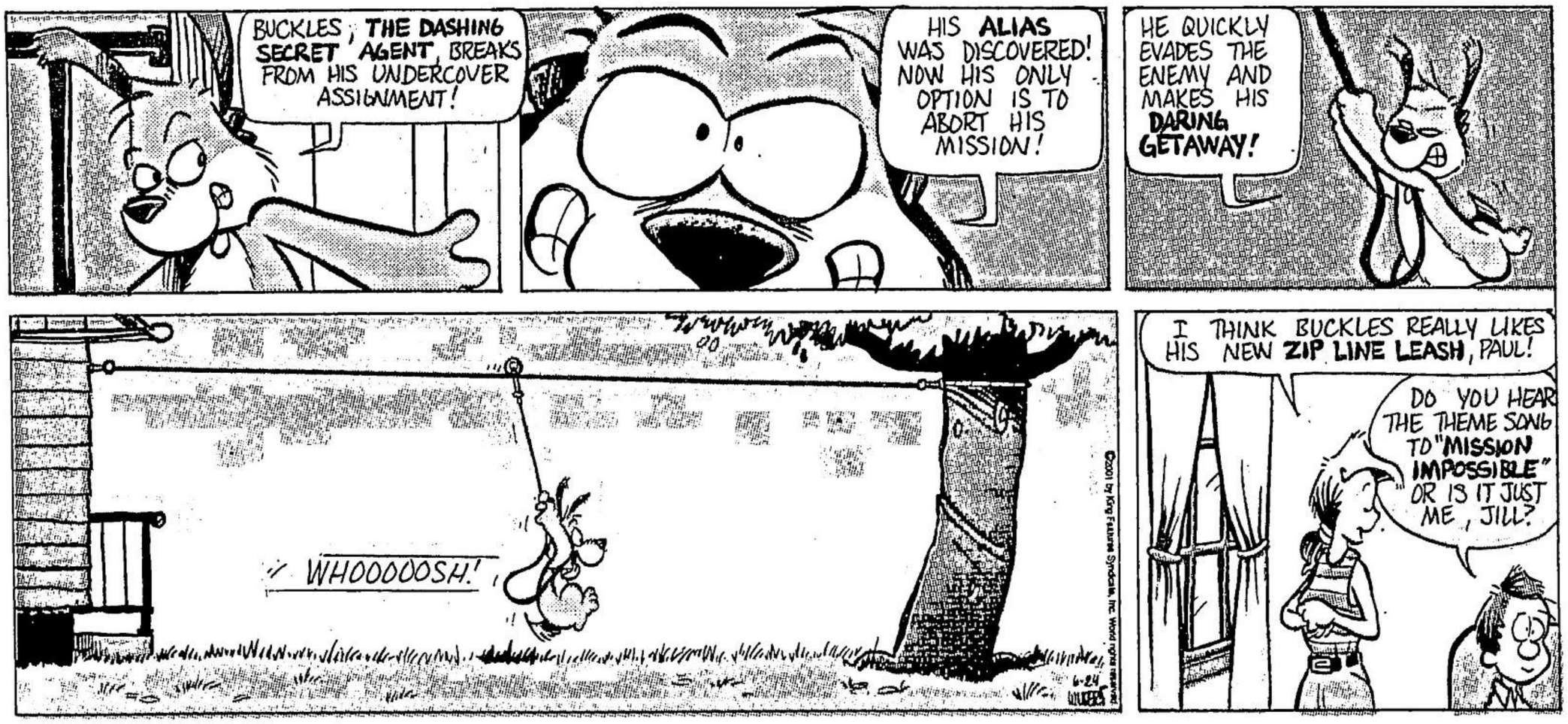
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



Junior INQUIRER

brings you

SHREK Activity Page

SHREK Fairy Tale Trivia

1. Name the puppet maker who created Pinocchio. _____
2. What materials should you not build your house with according to the story of the Three Little Pigs? _____
3. Who did the Big Bad Wolf impersonate? _____
4. The magic Mirror in *SHREK* answers the question "Who's the fairest of them all?" but in which fairy tale does this mirror originally appear? _____
5. Who is chased by the Three Blind Mice? _____
6. Name the famous egg that "had a great fall." _____
7. To whom did the boastful hare lose the race? _____
8. What poisonous fruit sends Snow White into an enchanted sleep?

_____

SHREK

Color Me

Hey kids!

Do this Shrek Activity Page for a chance to win a Junior Inquirer package and send to

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3 witnesses now scared to testify

STORY BELOW, COL.1

What went wrong?

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA, ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ AND JEROME ANING

HOW much time does it take to clear a fire exit of a simple obstruction?

Apparently, for the management of Quezon City Manor Hotel, one year was not time enough.

At least seven fire safety violations, including obstructed fire exits that were discovered a

WHAT/ A16

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

AUGUST 19, 2001 ★★ 68 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 252

Glo: Mike better seen than heard

BY JULIET JAVELLANA

LOW-KEY, not high-profile.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday confirmed her disapproval of the high profile that her

GLO/ A4

'LORD, SAVE US'

RP's deadliest hotel fire kills at least 75

WHOLE families gripped the metal grilles in terror, weeping and calling for help as firefighters doused them with water to try to cool them down.

A pre-dawn fire that ripped through the six-story Quezon City Manor Hotel yesterday killed at least 75 people and injured at least 41 more, becoming the worst fire disaster to hit the country since the 1996 Ozone Disco blaze in the same city.

The Bureau of Fire Protection said the fire was likely the deadliest ever in a hotel in the Philippines.

A total of 168 evangelists were staying at the budget hotel along Kamias Street, to attend the "Destiny Conference," a Christian crusade sponsored by the Texas-based Don Clowers Ministries. *(See related story below.)*

Many of the casualties, including children, died of suffocation and smoke inhalation in their rooms. The only marks on most of the bodies were black patches of soot around their mouths and nostrils. Only one fatality was recovered with severe burns.

The cause of the blaze, which was first noticed before 4 a.m. and put out two hours later, could not immediately be determined. Initial investigations showed a strong possibility of a

LORD/ A16

HEARTBREAK HOTEL. The six-story Manor Hotel (background) in Quezon City was found as long as a year ago to be violating at least seven fire safety regulations, including obstructed and locked fire exits that led to dead ends that made its every room a death trap. In photo at bottom, note double-deck bed and red mattress on the floor indicating that guests were packed in a single room. These children never had a chance. Will Quezon City officials ever learn? At presstime, the hotel owner, William Henato, allegedly refused to talk to investigators.

RANDY HORMILLOSA/ DENNIS SABANGAN

'They did not leave anyone for me'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

"LORD, please save us!"

Bon, 25, a born-again Christian from Palawan, shouted to God as she hung on for dear life to the iron window grilles of the burning hotel, the pavement far below her.

She hung there for several minutes, and even thought about climbing back into her smoke-filled room to get the Bible in her bag.

Below her, on the street, spectators like storeowner Shirly Falo yelled, "Don't let go! The firemen are here!"

Bon was rescued, and Falo brought her to her house to

THEY/ A16

3 witnesses now scared to testify

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA AND ARMAND NOCUM

DISMAYED by what happened at the Senate's Friday hearing on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged criminal activities, three new witnesses based in Mindanao are intending to back out from testifying, according to leaders of civil society and anti-crime groups.

Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, acknowledged that even the witnesses already in Isafp custody had become apprehensive in view of the detention of star witness Angelo "Ador" Mawanay.

"But I am still hopeful that these brave witnesses will not be cowed. Despite what transpired in the Senate, I am still hopeful that the proceedings will continue to get to the truth," Corpus said.

At an emergency meeting yesterday at the Ateneo de Manila University, civil society groups led by the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil II) and anti-crime groups led by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) joined forces to form the Samahan para sa Katotohanan at Kinabukasan (Katotohanan).

The new alliance invited Corpus at the meeting to express its support for his exposé on drug trafficking and other crimes.

"We are appalled, dismayed and disgusted by what happened in the Senate. We are gathered here to see to it that the Senate does not allow this country to be turned into a narco-state," said Jesuit priest Carmelo Caluag, convenor of Katotahanan.

"The danger that this nation is facing from the drug syndicates and other organized crime syndicates is very real and should not be ignored," Caluag said.

3 WITNESSES/ A16

Ador detention suffers 2 flaws

BY RAUL PALABRICA

ANALYSIS

ANGELO "ADOR" MAWANAY committed the serious crime of maligning the name of a senator right inside the hallowed Senate hall. There was no way the "Old Boys Club" would have allowed him to get away with that offense.

For the indiscretion and memory lapse, Mawanay is on his third day at the basement of the Senate building and will remain there until he presents documents that will substantiate his allegations against Sen. Loren Legarda or the senators who ordered his confinement reconsider their action.

The reason cited by the three Senate committees to justify Mawanay's detention—contempt—

ADOR/ A4

Second FRONT PAGE

Erap lawyers block freeze on ₱211M

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE ATTEMPT by lawyers of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada to block a freeze order on P211 million the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation funds and P11 million in bank deposits of Yolanda Ricaforte has puzzled government prosecutors.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said the defense had "no business commenting on the motion unless they know for a fact that the questioned money belongs to the former president."

The defense has asked the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court to allow them to comment on the motion for attachment of the questionable funds and bank accounts, a move which left Desierto, the lead prosecutor in the plunder trial of Estrada, shaking his head.

"Why should they want to comment on the motion?" he asked. He said the defense lawyers' move could be interpreted as a tacit admission that the money to be garnished "is in fact the money of their client."

The main prosecution witness, former Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, had claimed that the funds of the foundation had come from *jueteng*, or illegal gambling.

Singson had testified at Estrada's aborted impeachment trial that he had deposited money from illegal gambling that he collected for Estrada into the foundation's coffers.

Singson had also testified that Ricaforte, who remains at large, was Estrada's designated auditor of the *jueteng* collections.

The prosecution believes that Ricaforte's bank deposits in five Equitable-PCI Bank branches, amounting to P11 million, also came from the *jueteng* bribes that Singson allegedly collected for Estrada.

The foundation's funds are in an account at the Equitable-PCIBank's Ortigas Center branch (P201.39 million) and another with the UCPB's Makati Avenue branch (P10.09 million).

Desierto filed last Wednesday a motion for attachment, seeking to freeze the foundation's funds and Ricaforte's bank deposits.

The prosecution wants to ensure that the funds are intact in anticipation of a future separate civil action against Estrada for the forfeiture of the funds in favor of the state.

It argued that the controversial deposits must be guarded against "the possibility of (their) being withdrawn, concealed, removed or dissipated, stashed away or disposed of."

Earlier, the Ombudsman and justice officials also moved to "freeze" the "presidential mansions" and other properties of the jailed ex-president.

Initially, these efforts center on a North Forbes Park property and the controversial "Boracay mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City, allegedly acquired by Estrada with his ill-gotten gains.

'Jolina' kills 2 Koreans off Boracay

ILOILO CITY—Two South Korean tourists died while their 23 other companions were rescued on Friday when a motorized boat they were taking to Boracay island capsized on the Tabon Strait amid strong waves spawned by tropical depression "Jolina."

Floods and landslides caused by heavy rains have left at least 13 people dead, thousands of people homeless, villages and farmlands under water and in Central Luzon, Central Visayas and Central Mindanao.

The bodies of Koreans Kim Heong Kae, 37, and Yoo Ok Son, 27, were recovered from under the capsized MB Linarie.

Those who survived were Jeon Chang Woo, 38; Hur Seon Mi, 34; Kim Ji Joon, 40; Yang Book Deok, 37; Oh Cyo Seung; Lee Won Doo, 34; Moon Dong Hee, 36; Cho Kwang Ho, 61; Cho Dong Youn, 34; Hwang Jeong Ha, 34; Kwon Lee Gu, 46; Oh Sungheck, 29; Seo Jun Hee, 9; Hahn Ok Ran, 37; Lee Neun Deok, 39; Lee Chang Joo, 4; and Lee Hyun Joo, 5.

The other survivors were the boat's crewmembers Arturo de los Reyes, Rafael Maming, Robert Condez and Alan Maming; Wilfredo Fuentes, a photographer, and his young son.

The South Koreans were booked for a three-day-two-night stay at the Pearl of the Pacific Beach resort, according to tourism regional director Edwin Trompeta.

The remains of the two dead Koreans were flown to Manila yesterday afternoon together with the 17 survivors, who decided to cut short their holidays and return home, Trompeta said.

Reports from the OCD said the boat sank about .3 km off Laurel island and 2.4 km off Sitio Tabon, Barangay Caticlan, Malay, Aklan.

Trompeta said the coast guard station at Caticlan had cleared the boat's departure.

Sitio Tabon is the temporary boat station used during the monsoon months from June to October. For the rest of the year, passengers use the boat station at Caticlan.

"The southwest monsoon is treacherous. It strikes any time even when there is no typhoon signal. The strong current creates huge waves that batter unsuspecting bancas," said Trompeta.

In a radio interview Friday evening, Condez said there were at least two huge waves that struck the boat, the second of which sent the Koreans into a panic.

A third wave overturned the boat. The passengers survived by clinging to the capsized boat, while the crewmembers, taking some of the Koreans with them, swam ashore.

Fishermen close to the site of the incident rescued the other passengers, he said.

The passengers and the ferry's crewmembers were all wearing life jackets, the OCD reported. *Reports from Ma. Diosa Labiste, Romy Amarado and Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau, Charlie C. Señase an Edwin O Fernandez, Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Jun Malig and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Bureau*

'Balut' downs Nani

BAGUIO CITY—Four pieces of *balut* (boiled duck eggs) that he ate for dinner while driving up to Baguio was what made Justice Secretary Hernani Perez ill.

Perez was rushed to the St. Louis University hospital here on Saturday morning, cutting short his scheduled talk before the annual meeting of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA) at Teachers' Camp.

"It was a case of indigestion," Perez said, as he bantered with well-wishers and fellow patients at the hospital.

Dr. Gerardo Pagaddu Jr. said Perez's blood pressure had gone up to a manageable 140/80.

"We treated him for mild indigestion and vertigo. The trip may have strained him, but his blood pressure only went up a little. He is well," Pagaddu told the INQUIRER.

A staff member said Perez was "overworked."

Perez himself admitted that the justice department has had its hands full attending to major issues, ranging from the new exposes of Angelo "Ador" Mawanay to the military wrangling involving the Abu Sayyaf payoff issue and the investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"I feel like I've traveled from one end of the world to the other, arriving here in Baguio from Ormoc City," Perez explained to concerned Baguio-based Batangueños who flocked to the hospital. *Desiree Caluza and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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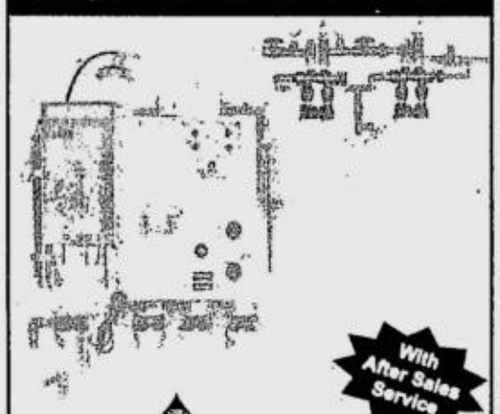
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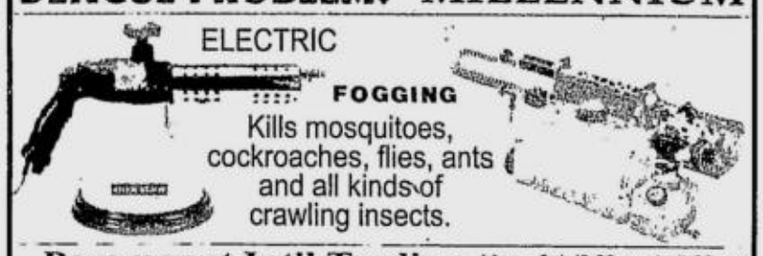
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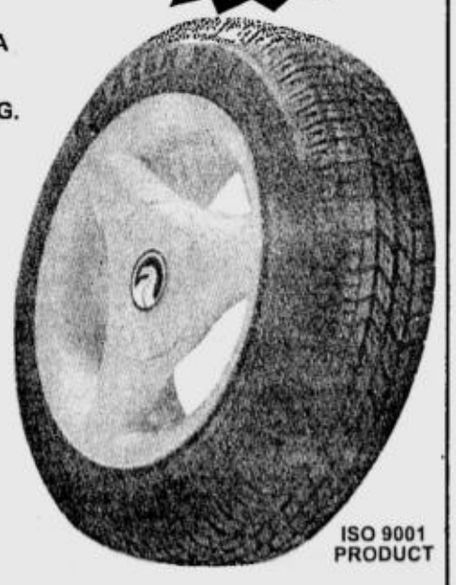
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Muslim civil society backs Fr. Nacorda

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

CATHOLIC priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda yesterday received the support of Muslim civil society for his exposé of alleged connivance between military officers and the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao.

Maradeka, an umbrella organization of groups like Task Force Mindanao, Ulama and Professional Executive Committee and the Supreme Council of Ulama in the Philippines, called for the resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva on the principle of command responsibility.

They also asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to sack the five military officers, led by Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, whom Nacorda had linked to the alleged connivance with the Abu Sayyaf.

Maradeka also urged the President to form an independent body to investigate Nacorda's allegations.

"We would like to reiterate that for the sake of transparency, the President should consider creating an independent probe body because we believe we cannot rely mainly on the Senate inquiry," the organization said in a statement.

Datu Haj Ansari Alonto, Maradeka spokesman, said Muslim leaders have long been expressing their suspicion the Abu Sayyaf was really a creation of the military.

Nacorda had said he has witnesses who would testify certain military commanders had allowed the Abu Sayyaf to escape capture or death for a fee.

The military has been chasing after the hostage-holding group throughout the small island of Basilan for one and a half years. Freed hostages themselves have told of the apparent collusion between military officers and the bandit group.

On Saturday, government officials said they were confident the problem of the Abu Sayyaf and the rash of abductions in general in the country would be resolved this year.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said top security officials relayed this assessment to Ms Macapagal during a meeting at the presidential palace.

Tiglao said fighting the Abu Sayyaf was "a slow process because they are always hiding."

He said the military assured Ms Macapagal "they are still on track to eliminate the Abu Sayyaf definitely within the year." *With a report from AFP*

AFP set to fly Abu to Metro

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military is ready to transport the 48 suspected Abu Sayyaf members and supporters who were arrested in Basilan to Taguig, Metro Manila, for trial.

Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, AFP Southern Command chief, said Saturday a C-130 military transport plane will fly the suspects to Taguig from their month-long detention here.

Last week, the Supreme Court ordered the suspects moved to the National Capital Region police headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig, after Cebu residents protested the earlier decision to hold the trial in their city. *Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Ador detention suffers 2 flaws

(From page A1)

suffers from two flaws. First, it is legally defective; second, it is arbitrary and capricious.

True, the Senate and its committees have the authority to hold in contempt any person who misbehaves within its premises, regardless of the purpose or manner by which his presence was obtained.

That person can be arrested and detained indefinitely if he obstructs or interrupts the proceedings, commits disrespectful or offensive acts, refuses to be sworn in or answer as a witness, or engages in any act that tends to put the Senate in disrepute.

Rationale

The grant of authority to cite a person in contempt and punish him swiftly is premised on the principle that the exercise of the Senate's legislative duties should not be delayed or prevented by the action of third parties.

The power to cite a person tor contempt and order his confinement until he complies with whatever order the Senate may give in relation to the act complained of is essential to the preservation of the integrity of the institution.

A review of the incidents that led to Mawanay's contempt citation shows that he did not commit any act that justifies the Senate's exercise of that authority. He did not do anything that tended to obstruct or interrupt the committee investigation.

Neither did he refuse to answer a question asked of him or perform any act that may be considered disrespectful or offensive to the integrity of the Senate as an institution.

While he may have said something unsavory about Legarda, she is not the Senate personified. She is only one of 24 senators.

In fact, the alleged "contemptuous act" of Mawanay was committed in answer to a question posed to him by Legarda herself.

Mawanay did not volunteer the controversial statement. He did something that a senator asked him to do.

The power to cite a person for contempt is an extreme remedy. It is exercised with caution and only when all other means to accomplish an objective have been tried.

Perjury case

If indeed Mawanay lied about Legarda's purchase of mobile telephones, the appropriate complaint for perjury or making false statements under oath could have been filed against him at the proper court.

By immediately banishing Mawanay to the basement of the Senate building, the senators virtually acted as prosecutor and judge on the truthfulness of his allegations.

The senators took their colleague's denial at its face value and adjudged Mawanay as guilty of fabrication until he proved the contrary.

The "Old Boys Club" couldn't wait for Monday to file the perjury complaint and, in an obvious act of pique, ordered Mawanay's detention within its premises.

Lawyers can argue till hell freezes over that the confinement is not in the nature of a punishment. But the fact remains that it is a form of deprivation of freedom that is akin to the imprisonment sentence imposed by a judge.

By confining Mawanay in the four corners of the Senate basement, the senators have made it difficult, if not impossible, for him to submit the documents that the senators demanded he produce to substantiate his allegations against Legarda.

This condition assumes that Mawanay is in possession of documentary evidence that will back up his statement.

But the problem is he has already admitted that the alleged fax order and Legarda's check payment were lost in a flood that hit his house in Divisoria.

Unless a miracle of sorts happens by way of reappearance of those documents, there is no way Mawanay can submit the documentary evidence asked of him.

If the senators stick to their condition, Mawanay faces the prospect of becoming a long-term guest of the Senate.

It's worth noting that proof of the commission of an act does not depend solely on the presentation of supporting documentary evidence.

A verbal testimony or an eyewitness account, if shown to be credible, will be sufficient for that purpose.

At the end of the day, assuming that Mawanay cannot produce the documents demanded (which is most likely), it will be his word against that of Legarda.

It will be a question of credibility, of determining who is lying and who is telling the truth. The proper venue for that determination is our regular courts, not the Senate.

Kid gloves

Noticeably, while the committee handled Mawanay with severity, it accorded Col. Victor Corpus extra special treatment.

The AFP intelligence chief was not exactly deferential to the senators. He virtually insulted them when he asked them (the exact words used—"You senators") not to coddle Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Corpus mentioned the Senate as one of the government institutions that has "bad eggs."

On a number of occasions, he refused to name names or give details even when pressed by some senators under pain of contempt.

In other words, if the standard yardstick is used in Corpus' case, he should have been cited for contempt many times over had the senators been less accommodating with his answers.

It is obvious that the difference in status between the two did not escape the senators' attention. After all, Corpus is a respected high AFP officer, with two fraternities of military officials openly endorsing his crusading activities.

He is no ordinary mortal like Mawanay. It is not surprising that the senators were not too enthusiastic to invoke their power of contempt when he did worse things than Mawanay.

Direction

The Senate committees were so engrossed on Friday in looking into the mistakes of Corpus, his failure to comply with internal procedures, his past activities and the incredible tales that Mawanay wove that the committees forgot the purpose for which they convened.

They were there to investigate in aid of legislation the accusation of Corpus that Lacson maintained questionable bank accounts abroad.

The senators, both administration and opposition, do not appear to be enthusiastic about looking deeply into this matter.

The passion that marked the Senate investigation last year of former President Joseph Estrada's in the connection with the "Juetengate" scandal is surprisingly absent.

Either the senators do not want to hurt the feeling of their embattled colleague or they themselves have large bank deposits abroad that they are afraid might be looked into if the investigation goes to its full measure.

Glo: Mike better seen than heard

(From page A1)

husband, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, took in the recent telecommunications bribery scandal.

"In my view," she said in an interview with radio dzMM, "the First Gentleman should be seen, not heard."

The President laughingly confirmed that she yelled at her husband when she chanced on him giving a radio interview at the height of the scandal.

She was referring to the instance when Arroyo's live interview was halted after a "female voice" was heard shouting: "Stop that!"

The voice was hers, she said.

Arroyo was earlier linked by Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, the President's correspondence secretary and close friend, to a supposed P50-million bribe for two telecommunications franchises.

Rodrigo quit her post because of the issue, but she later retracted her accusation and saved the administration from becoming the subject of a full-blown Senate investigation.

Conflict

The President said she and her husband were in conflict over his role as her spouse.

"He believes he should defend himself (against criticism), but in my view, the First Gentleman should be seen, not heard," she said.

Happily, they have found a "middle solution."

"He has to defend himself (when necessary) but he should try to keep a low profile," the President said.

She defended her "management style" when dzMM program host Solita "Winnie" Monsod asked if it was true that she would subject her Cabinet members to a scolding.

She said "dressing down" was a "subjective" issue particularly when "the receiver" was concerned. But she said she was only being "emphatic" about the specific assignments of her Cabinet officials.

Asked how she soothed hurt feelings, she said she is not exactly touchy-feely: "I am not *cariñosa*."

Told that certain disgruntled Cabinet officials might write poison letters demanding her resignation, she said: "But perhaps dictatorship or plunder are the reasons why an official is removed. It should not be because of management style, especially if you deliver."

"I do not have tantrums," she said. "Perhaps I raise my voice, yes." But she never holds a grudge against her officials, she added.

Typical day

The President also talked about her typical day, which starts at 7 a.m.

She attends a daily 8 a.m. Mass, does desk work at 9 a.m., conducts meetings at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., visits her constituents and meets engagements outside the Palace.

A "working dinner" caps her workday, and then as exercise she goes to the Malacañang Park at 9:30 p.m. for an hour of golf.

On most days she takes time to watch television at 10:30 p.m.

"I change channels and I close my eyes. I listen more than I watch," she said, adding that she would normally doze and wake up past midnight to turn off the TV set.

"My aim is to be in bed by 10 p.m.," she said.

From 114 pounds when she assumed the presidency on Jan. 20, the President trimmed down to 89 pounds in the days surrounding the May 1 siege of Malacañang.

She said Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit gave her appetite boosters that made her gain more pounds that she later tried to lose.

Now she is steady at 100 pounds.

The President confirmed that some Cabinet officials were going hungry with her around because they had gotten tired of the unchanging Palace menu.

When asked, she said it was her daughter Lulli who was the "most responsible" among her three children. She said that her younger son Dato was also dependable, and that Mikey, vice governor of Pampanga and aspiring actor, was *cariñoso*.

All's not well for Gloria, Copa

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo virtually confirmed yesterday that all was not well between her and the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa), one of the groups that was supportive of her after Joseph Estrada was toppled from the presidency.

"With Copa, we never had a honeymoon period. Even during the (Edsa 2) protest, before I became President, they were not for me," Ms Macapagal said in an early morning interview over dzMM radio.

The President was asked to comment on Copa's alleged threat to destabilize her administration after members of the group failed to get Cabinet appointments.

"They have that right if they want to do it," she said, when told that Copa was launching a "silent protest" against her.

Copa was formed after the *jueteng* (numbers game) scandal involving Estrada broke in October 2000.

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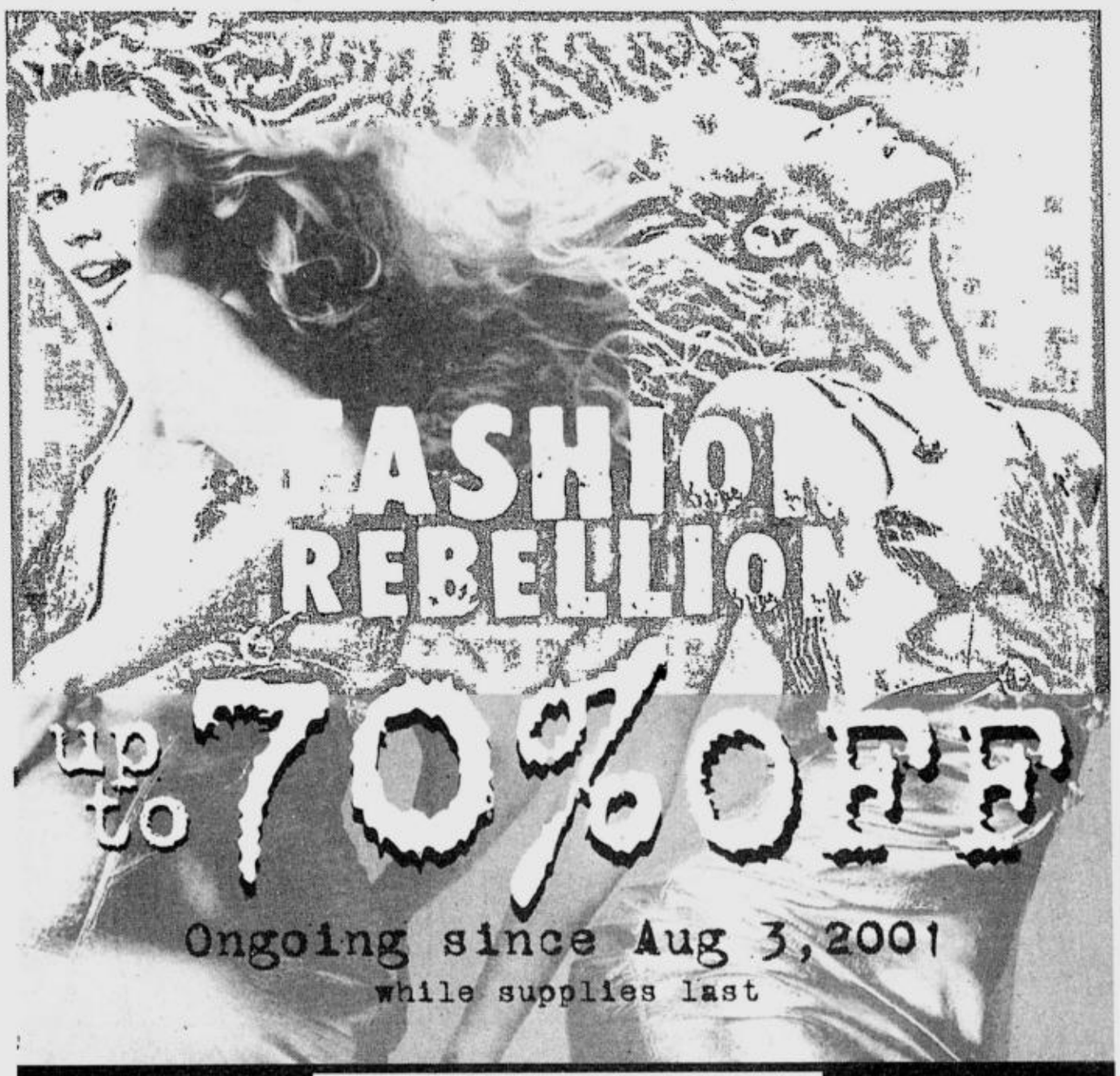

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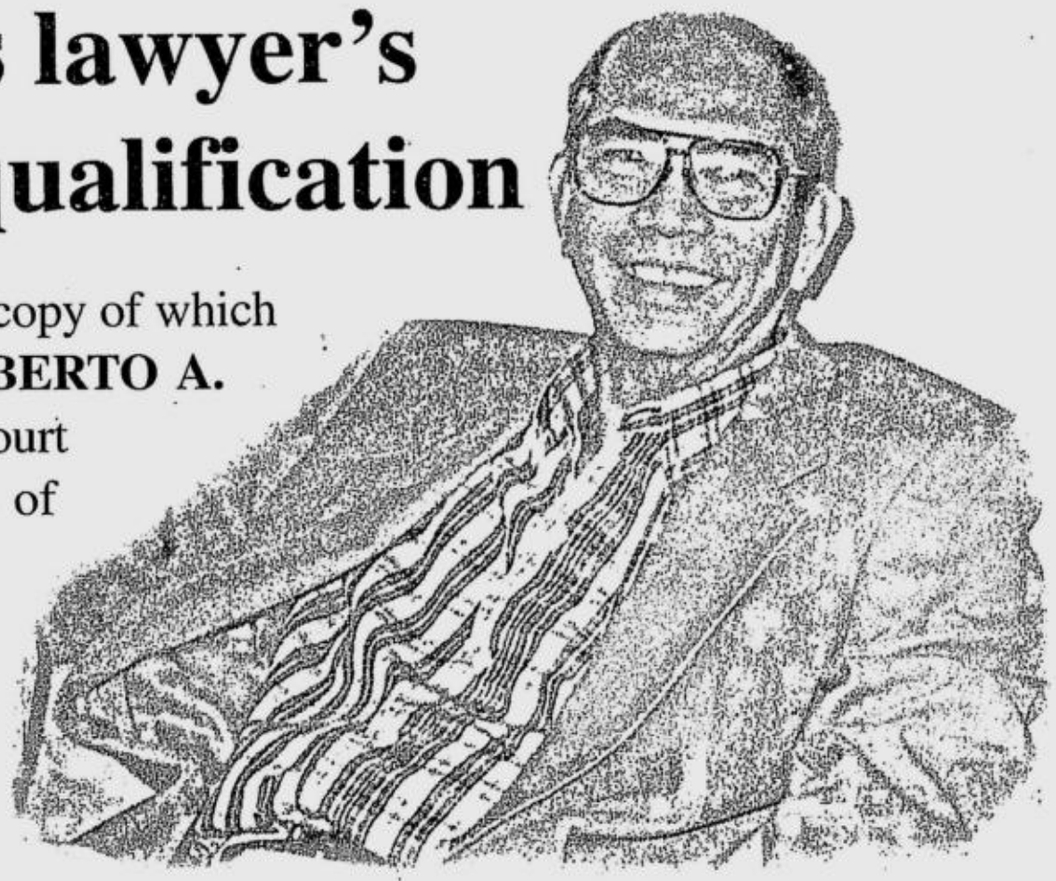
Supreme court affirms lawyer's innocence and moral qualification



IN AN En Banc resolution dated March 13, 2001 copy of which was received by the heirs of the late **ATTY. ALBERTO A. VILLARRUZ SR.** of Roxas City, the Supreme Court affirmed the innocence and moral qualification of Atty Villarruz. The name Atty. Villarruz was mentioned in a report of the Office of the Bar Confidant about a former Regional Trial Court Judge of Roxas City who was a respondent in a disbarment case.

The Supreme Court ruled that Atty. Villarruz was never impleaded as a correspondent nor was he meted a penalty in that disbarment case about an RTC Judge.

The decision also cited what the heirs of Atty. Villarruz claim is their Constitutional Right to be secure in their persons which inevitably includes enjoyment of the untarnished memory of their closest and dearest kin.

The surviving spouse and children of Atty. Alberto Villarruz had earlier petitioned the Supreme Court to delete his name from the said Bar Confidant's report.

Once again, from the spouse and children of Atty. Alberto A. Villarruz Sr., premises considered, we realized that with love nothing can ever separate us.

Thank you for teaching us your life's lesson of courage and simplicity.

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OPINION

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
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Muddling through

THE ISSUE, let us all remind ourselves, is organized crime. Intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus said he has obtained information pointing to Sen. Panfilo Lacson as engaged in money laundering, drug trafficking and other crimes. Invited by the Senate to reveal the information, he went into the joint hearing on Friday with documents in hand and witnesses in tow, expecting to make his case. Instead, he found himself on the defensive, and the Senate in a state of confusion.

EDITORIAL

The two resolutions that prompted the Senate to conduct the hearings in the first place should have given him advance warning. The first sought an inquiry into alleged civilian agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay's charges against Lacson and the now defunct task force he headed. The second asked the Senate to investigate the possible involvement of military officials in the fabrication of evidence against Lacson.

Even by these severely limited (and seriously questionable) objectives, however, the hearing failed spectacularly. Corpus and his chief witness Mawanay contributed to the muddling of the issue, but the senators played a part too.

Corpus' naiveté. Corpus made the avoidable mistakes of a political naïf. He ended his opening statement by drawing a proverbial line in the sand, and dared the senators to join his side. It was a needless display of moral seriousness that antagonized all the senators. Upon the outraged prodding of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the colonel was forced to admit that he had no reason to doubt the integrity of most senators. The lesson from the serious bungling over alleged drug lord Kim Wong's photo seems to have been lost on him: one step forward and two steps back does not a position of strength make.

Legarda's folly. It was Sen. Loren Legarda herself who brought up the issue of the cell phones. Corpus did not bring it up; as she herself admitted, he had told her a month ago that (a) she had been mentioned and (b) he did not believe there was a case against her. Mawanay did not bring it up; he repeatedly said she was not included in his affidavit because he could not remember every detail and did not have corroborative evidence. It was Legarda herself who introduced the topic—a topic, it is worth repeating, that was unknown to the public. Compounding this basic crisis-management mistake ("don't start a fire when there is none"), she turned part of the hearings into a drawn-out confrontation with her reluctant accuser, thus fueling the fire she had started ("don't feed a fire with airtime"). Because she chose to dignify what she called a "preposterous" and "amusing" claim, she has since reaped the headlines.

Biazon's gobbledygook. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon endeared himself to the public during the impeachment trial when he lambasted the tendency of "legal gobbledygook" to obfuscate the proceedings. Last Friday, in an effort to implicate Corpus' higher-ups in the decision to run after Lacson's alleged bank accounts, he used some gobbledygook himself. Throwing key terms like "authority" and "jurisdiction" around, the former military chief of staff succeeded in obfuscating even himself. Surely he must have known the difference between strategic and tactical initiatives; it was left up to the commander in chief, later in the day, to remind the public of the familiar distinction.

Jaworski's mentality. Perhaps the most telling reason why the first day of the controversial Senate hearing turned from an inquiry into organized crime into an orgy of senatorial self-justification may be found in the short argument that erupted between Senators Ralph Recto and Robert Jaworski. Questioning the legal basis for Mawanay's detention, Recto was cut short by Jaworski. Are you questioning the wisdom of the chair? Jaworski asked his new colleague. Perhaps it's time you realize you're a member of the Senate, he added.

Okay. We get it. As Sen. John Osmeña was candid enough to admit two weeks ago, "from the very beginning there is an old-boy network in the Senate," which the allegations against Lacson would put "to the test." As Jaworski's unguarded moment revealed, the old boys last Friday flunked the test.

Manuel L. Quezon

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I DON'T know much about Manuel L. Quezon because I was only a child when he became President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines in 1935. I am aware, though, of the significant role he played in the winning of our independence, for which he deserves to be remembered if only today. Today is the 123rd anniversary of his birth.

For many of us now, especially the younger generation, Quezon is a disembodied figure in the story of our race. He led in our struggle for freedom from the United States, was applauded by the nation for his mighty efforts, and passed away into history. His memory is now seldom recalled except on occasions such as this, and at that by only a few who appreciate his greatness.

Quezon was not the original leader of the Filipino participation in the government during the American regime. That was Sergio Osmeña who became the Speaker of the Philippine Assembly in 1907. Quezon was only his lieutenant then but eventually elbowed out his chief. Even when Quezon's second term expired during World War II, he remained President of the Commonwealth by resolution of the US Congress. The ever-altruistic Vice President Osmeña, who would have succeeded him in 1943, had suggested the *status quo*.

Quezon dominated Philippine politics from the time he took over as the premier Filipino official in the government under the United States. In 1922, Senate President Quezon challenged Speaker Osmeña's primacy when he raised the issue of unipersonal versus collective leadership and won. The split in the Nacionalista Party was later healed but became more serious when the two leaders again disagreed, this time over the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act. The controversy was also resolved in Quezon's favor.

This dynamic politician caught the imagination of the nation, including the masses. Although a *mestizo* with an aristocratic bearing, he championed the cause of social justice for the benefit of what he called the common *tao*. Once he was photographed planting rice in a paddy, but with boots on. Even if he never shook hands with every single voter like Ramon Magsaysay, or eaten rice and fish with his hands like Joseph Estrada, the farmers loved the *kastila*.

Don Manuel had the handsome looks of a Latin lover with a temper and inclination to match. Pictures of him show he cut a dashing figure whether in military jodhpurs or white cutaway. A spellbinder on the Senate floor and the public podium, he also exhibited finesse on the ballroom floor. His skills as a tactician unhorsed many a reckless opponent. Incensed by the criticism of some student leaders, he summoned them to Malacañang one day and gave them a verbal lashing. The he fed them *lechon*.

Despite his charisma, Quezon had his share of adversaries. Many denounced him as a dictator and some even questioned his integrity. But he was not blatantly challenged like some of his successors, and the press, quite different from what it is today, was not eager to take him on. Quezon controlled the media. A press photographer was banned from the Palace when he broke a strict rule and shot a picture of the ailing President being carried on a hammock. The picture recorded for posterity Quezon's ire against the culprit.

But the fiery leader was not above admitting his shortcomings. Once he openly castigated the decision in the famous Cuevo v. Barredo case, where the court had dismissed a laborer's death benefit claims against the employer. Quezon fulminated against "sixteenth century judges interpreting twentieth century laws"—not knowing that the case was still on appeal. Justice Jose P. Laurel publicly protested the presidential outburst, and Quezon apologized. On that same occasion, he declared, "Justice Laurel wields the most powerful pen in our Supreme Court."

Our family was no admirer of Quezon, probably because of my father's influence. He was by nature an oppositionist and so joined the minority Democrata Party led by Eulogio Rodriguez, Claro M. Recto and others. Fear of its increasing strength led the *unipersonalistas* and the *colectivistas* to reconcile in 1924 into the Partido Nacionalista Consolidado. When Quezon and Osmeña again split over the independence law, my father joined the *pros* led by Osmeña and Manuel A. Roxas against Quezon.

I don't think my father voted for Emilio Aguinaldo or Gregorio Aglipay during the 1935 presidential election but I doubt if he voted for Quezon either. Quezon was a shoo-in anyway, and one vote more would not have mattered much. But when Quezon ran for reelection in 1941 (after orchestrating the constitutional amendment allowing a second term for the President), he had a formidable opponent in the eminent Sen. Juan Sumulong. My father supported the opposition standard bearer, but Quezon won again, as expected.

The outbreak of the Pacific War united the Filipino nation as never before and leveled all political barriers. The common enemy now was the Japanese invader, and Filipinos of all democratic persuasions rallied around the Philippine and American flags to "keep 'em flying." This was the bravado slogan of those anxious days. Politics was at a standstill while the whole country silently resisted the belligerent occupant in the guerrilla strongholds and even the Occupation government.

During those dolorous days, every Filipino's heart burned with the quiet hope that Gen. Douglas MacArthur would return to oust the enemy as he had promised. Wrapped in that hope was the prayer that the Philippine government in exile would be reestablished soon with President Manuel L. Quezon again at the helm as in the good old days before the war. That desperate dream eventually came true in 1945 but not completely. The part about Quezon was not to be.

Racked by the fever in his lungs contracted from a lifetime in the hustings as he campaigned vigorously for the complete, absolute and immediate independence of the Philippines, Quezon died of tuberculoses at Lake Saranac, New York, on Aug. 1, 1944. He had fought the good fight. He had stood tall against the foreign imperialists and reminded them that freedom had no color. He had won, and now he was ready to rest at last. He was only 68.

Disturb us, Lord

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

"WHY is it Father that when I came closer to God, I started to have more trials and problems?" People who thought that once God is in their lives, they would already have peace, have often asked me this question. That's true but not quite, because the presence of God can also be very "disturbing." As an eagle pushes its eaglets out of their comfortable nest so that they can learn how to fly, so too does God "push" us from our comfort zones so that we can grow and live meaningful lives.

* * *

People who see God as the superaspirin and the megavalium of life are bound to be "disturbed" by today's Gospel (Lk. 12:49-53) wherein Jesus speaks of setting the earth on fire and establishing not peace, but division. Faith is not something that makes us feel cozy and comfortable. It steers us to deeper truth and meaning. It should lead us to values and actions that many times run in conflict with what is popular, acceptable and stable. True faith questions. True faith disturbs. True faith does "rock the boat."

* * *

Do you know why the better never comes? Because we hold on and would not let go of what is already good. Complacency is the greatest enemy of change and growth. Remember how we as children thought that the horizon (*abot-tanaw*) was the end of the earth? But as we approached the horizon, the point where the earth meets the sky, it moves farther away. It moves. It is not fixed, and it draws us on. In the same manner, God will continue to challenge and encourage us to "broaden our horizons" at any point in our lives.

* * *

Below is a beautiful prayer written by Bishop Bienvenido Tudtud, DD that is so appropriate for today's gospel message. The first time I heard it was when I was still a seminarian, and I had to "disturb" a lot of my confreres to help me get a copy of it. It's amazing, it's edifying how they allowed themselves to be disturbed for a good cause. They opened their doors, opened their files and really went out of their way to help. Fr. Jun de Ocampo, SVD called up from far away Abra. Fr. Provincial Gaudy Pugat, SVD texted me at 1 a.m. to tell me he will fax it. Fr. Fred Saniel spent a lot of time going through his files to look for it. How I was able to acquire this beautiful prayer for this column was in itself a beautiful experience of disturbing and being disturbed.

"Disturb us, O Lord"

Disturb us, O Lord,
When we are too well-pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because
We dreamed too little;
When we have arrived in safety because we sailed
Too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord,
When with the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst for the Water of life;
When, having fallen in love with time,
We have ceased to dream of eternity;
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
Have allowed our vision for the New Heaven to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord
To dare more boldly,
To venture seas where storms shall show thy mastery,
Where losing sight of land
We shall find the stars.

In the name of Him
Who pushed back the horizons of our hopes
And invited the brave to follow Him.
Amen.

* * *

This column would like to pay tribute to modern-day prophets who "disturb" us to lead us to greater faith and deeper truths. Anyone who stands for the truth is a prophet, and a prophet is oftentimes persecuted, criticized, misunderstood and even killed. Ninoy Aquino was killed. Jaime Cardinal Sin has often been criticized. Fr. Cirilo Nacorda is misunderstood and maligned...and so many more. Let us pray that the Lord will continue to raise in our midst people who will "disturb" us and lead us to broader horizons and greater heights.

* * *

One disturbing news I received this week was the sudden death of my nephew Ryan Galicia Lopez in Vancouver, Canada who drowned during a family outing. He was a simple, good and helpful boy, intending to enter the seminary this fall. Why him? Why now? Disturbing questions. I was so edified by the courage of my cousin Ate Linda who said: "God's will be done. The Lord called Ryan to follow Him. Yes, he followed Him to eternity." So many times I could not find an answer to the question: Why do bad things happen to good people and why do the evil seem to prosper and the good seem to suffer? Yes, these questions disturb us, but our faith assures us. Like the eagle watches as it pushes its eaglets, rest assured, God will be there to make sure we do not fall. May our faith disturb us as it assures us.

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, continue to disturb us so that we do not stop in our search for true and lasting peace. Amen.

Method in Ador's madness

CROSSCURRENTS

Antonio T. Carpio

THE INCREDIBLE tales of Ador Mawanay are now unraveling before the Senate where he will most likely be the object of scorn and ridicule. Unfortunately, Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus has staked his own credibility on Ador's fantastic tales. This sets the stage for Sen. Panfilo Lacson's escape from arrest for the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case.

Before the appearance of Ador, Corpus was on the right track in gathering solid evidence against Lacson on the Kuratong Baleleng case. Corpus was able to secure the affidavits of three policemen and a civilian, who were all at the scene of the crime, pointing to Lacson as the mastermind. With these affidavits, prosecutors filed a new non-bailable criminal case against Lacson.

Faced with jail arrest during the trial of a multiple murder case, Lacson will be forced to ask for a bail hearing. If Lacson can establish that evidence of guilt is not strong, he can be granted bail and consequently escape jail arrest pending trial. To establish that evidence of guilt is not strong, Lacson will have to discredit the testimony of the three policemen and one civilian now under the custody of Corpus. This can be done by showing that Corpus, who procured the affidavits of these four key witnesses, is capable of fabricating evidence.

Enter Ador, the man who claims to have run all kinds of errands for Lacson. In the last Senate hearing, Ador claimed he sold, on behalf of Lacson, 1,000 units of smuggled Nokia 3210 cell phones to Sen. Loren Legarda at P8,900 per unit. Ador testified that some time in December 1998 he delivered the cell phones personally to Legarda at the parking lot of Star City at the CCP Complex. Ador narrated that he loaded, with the help of a Mang Ben, the 1,000 cell phones inside Legarda's back-up L-300 van. In payment, Ador claimed Legarda gave him a check for P8.9 million payable to cash. Ador added it was the first time he had personally met Legarda.

Legarda has vehemently denied buying the smuggled cell phones. Legarda declared she has never met Ador before. Legarda stated she does not have any back-up vehicle. Indeed, it is incredible why a lady senator would personally buy smuggled goods from a complete stranger in an open parking lot, paying the stranger with her own personal check. Besides, 1,000 cell phones in bulky boxes could hardly fit one L-300 van. Incidentally, the Nokia 3210 became commercially available in the country only in late 1999, one year after Legarda supposedly purchased 1,000 of these cell phones.

According to Ador, Mang Ben died shortly after the transaction. The copy of the fax order sent by Legarda to Ador was lost in a flood that inundated Ador's house. Even the copy of Legarda's check, which Ador claimed he photocopied for souvenir purposes, was lost in the flood. There is no one to corroborate Ador's testimony, and there is no document to prove that the sale of cell phones worth P8.9 million ever took place.

If you find Ador's story incredible, wait till you hear his claim that he sold in December 1998, also on behalf of Lacson, 10,000 units of the same Nokia 3210 to then Sen. Raul Roco. It would have taken Ador one 20-foot container (truck) to deliver to Roco 10,000 cell phones in their original boxes. Ador claims Roco paid for the cell phones with a personal check in the staggering amount of P89 million, payable to cash. Roco has denied transacting with, or even knowing, Ador. And just like the transaction with Legarda, Ador cannot present any document or witness to support that he sold 10,000 cell phones to Roco.

The clincher, of course, is Ador's tall tale about the bank accounts of Lacson. Ador claims that Lacson once asked him to withdraw US$2 million from Lacson's secret Citibank account in San Francisco, California. While Ador's trip to the United States did not push through because he could not get a US visa, Ador claims Lacson still gave him the account number in Citibank San Francisco. This is one of the 17 bank accounts that Corpus publicly disclosed as belonging to Lacson.

How did Corpus get hold of the other alleged 16 bank accounts of Lacson? The source is again Ador who claims he successfully hacked into the computer database of Citibank. Ador is a jack-of-all-trades—Ador the salesman, Ador the bagman, Ador the delivery boy and now Ador the hacker. If Ador succeeded in hacking Lacson's Citibank accounts, why did he not just transfer all the money, amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, to the account of the Salvation Army?

At this point, Lacson can make a case that Corpus is capable of palming off spurious or even fabricated evidence. If Ador's testimony against Lacson, which Corpus swears is the Gospel truth, is fabricated, then the testimonies of Corpus' other witnesses against Lacson could also be fabricated. Even the sight of Ador in the Senate, seated together with the four key Kuratong Baleleng witnesses of Corpus, somehow devalues the testimonies of these four key witnesses.

There is obviously method in Ador's seeming madness. But credit should go to Ador's wily manipulator who has clearly outfoxed the Isafp chief.

Wanted: 'legislative' champions for OFWs

COMMENTARY

Jeremaiah M. Opiniano
Institute on Church and Social Issues

BUKIDNON Rep. J. Nereus Acosta was neatly dressed in a dazzling executive suit, showcasing his legislative, academic and even fashion savvy. Coupled with a well-modulated voice, Acosta had captured the audience's respect while giving a keynote speech at the Fourth Asia-Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) conference held here in February.

Of course, Acosta was not to be outdone before an assembly of academicians and scholars. He shared his memorable tales studying at the University of Hawaii, and his eagerness to be in the academe. But this Ateneo public administration professor is more renowned for being an environmental advocate. So what is he doing at the APMRN?

Acosta then explained his doctoral dissertation and highlighted the migration aspect of that study, which had a different research focus. Again, he was so proud of his academic work that his immersion in the academe "was my refuge to bring back my sanity" while doing ticklish legislative work.

But toward the end of his keynote, Acosta mentioned the alarming reality that is surely not welcome news to the Philippine migrant sector: "During the last session of Congress, no migration-related bills were passed. And we hope that all of you (participants) will provide us legislators with significant research so that relevant legislation may be done accordingly."

That was a very humiliating tale that Acosta, and implicitly the Philippine Congress, told to a band of respected migration researchers in the Asia Pacific. Of course, political realities such as the lack of legislation are frequent inputs to these scholars' research. Acosta's revelation, however, shows the newest form of government ineptitude to fulfill the mandate of protecting the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Migrant workers are badly battered and bruised. The troubles they face abroad have become common litanies. Meanwhile, concerned government agencies such as the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration are continually criticized by NGOs and migrants for policy decisions that do not protect migrant workers. These agencies' deodorized labeling of OFWs as "modern-day heroes" is nothing but a cover for their inefficiency and neglect.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, in a speaking engagement last May, was embarrassed over the continued migration of Filipinos. This can be attributed to migration's consequences to workers and, importantly, to the ineffectiveness and irrelevance of existing state policies on overseas employment. This political embarrassment is another effect of Congress' ineptitude.

Even after the celebrated death of Flor Contemplacion, things have not changed. What government, particularly the legislature, offered was a set of "beautifully crafted" pieces of legislation that should have brought about protection for OFWs. Unfortunately, OFWs in troublesome situations have increased, and help from Congress is badly needed.

Related to Philippine labor migration, the biggest challenges facing the current Congress is the passage of amendments to Republic Act 8042 (Magna Carta of Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos), the proposed Absentee Voting and Anti-Trafficking bills, and amendments to the 1987 Foreign Service Act. During the last Congress, Acosta said, the most significant accomplishment was the passage of the Anti-Trafficking bill by the House of Representatives, but the Senate did not move the bill forward.

RA 8042, a hastily crafted law done in the wake of the Contemplacion crisis, has numerous loopholes that reveal ambiguities in the government's managing of overseas employment. For example, the deregulation of labor export is so full of ambivalent definitions and provisions. Nevertheless, government will gradually implement deregulation since RA 8042 mandated it. Framers of the law did not consider the fact that deregulating the labor export industry, which is a move to free the market of regulations, spells doom to the protection of the OFWs' rights and welfare.

Aside from deregulation, other questionable provisions in RA 8042 include government's imprecise policy declaration on overseas employment, provisions on deployment, illegal recruitment, money claims for workers and economic and social reintegration. Because of these questionable provisions, the Magna Carta, said Foreign Undersecretary Merlin Magallona, does not reflect the true state of the country's migration problem—and it needs to be amended.

The Absentee Voting bill, which was certified by President Macapagal as urgent during her State of the Nation Address, has been shelved for 15 years already. While many favored its passage, selfish politicians, who disagreed with the proposed mechanisms for absentee voting, have successfully impounded the bill for that long period of time. This is insulting to the nearly eight million migrants abroad because while they have been saving the economy through their remittances, they are not empowered to determine the nation's future by practicing their right to suffrage.

There are nearly 800,000 trafficked Filipino women, many of whom are shipped to other countries, according to estimates by the International Labor Organization. But while the country has actively joined numerous regional initiatives against trafficking, there is no domestic law that heavily penalizes and punishes those involved in the trafficking of persons.

Filipinos abroad have also been complaining about what the Department of Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic offices are doing. This is largely due to the absence of a concrete foreign policy on migration. A case in point is when Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona assisted striking workers in Brunei some three months ago, where he was able to convince company owners to give workers higher benefits and wages. This, despite the fact that these migrant workers do not want to work because of discrimination. Experiences such as this show the Philippines' non-existing foreign policy in dealing with labor-receiving countries, and this necessitates amendments to the 14-year-old Foreign Service Act.

The very sorry performance of the last Congress, particularly related to OFW concerns, gives us much concern. OFWs may have been immune already to numerous forms of insults from government such as those earlier mentioned. But this newest form of inefficiency, coming from Congress, is different. While our congressmen have been aware of the never-ending troubles and controversies in the Philippine migrant sector, scoring zero in the last Congress is a very severe insult to the dignity of these "heroes."

If the recent Sona is any indication that the 12th Congress will correct itself by passing pro-OFW measures (after scoring zero the last time around) we certainly hope this happens. If our congressmen are open-minded to the plight of OFWs, and do want to help ease the government's embarrassment over the continued migration of Filipinos and its consequences, we do need legislative "champions" for OFWs.

The Sisters' mission

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"I would have her distinguished by Christ-like charity, a limpid simplicity of soul, heroic generosity, selflessness, unswerving loyalty, prudent zeal, an orderly mind, gracious courtesy, an adaptable disposition, solid piety, and the saving grace of a sense of humor."

THIS is how Mary Josephine Rogers, who is best remembered as Mother Mary Joseph, foundress of the Congregation of the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, described in 1935 her ideal of a Maryknoll Sister. With a bit of a stretch, one could say this may well have been her ideal of a daughter of Maryknoll, too. Though I must say that while only rarely have I glimpsed "a limpid simplicity of soul" among my sister alumnae, almost all display "the saving grace of a sense of humor."

The Maryknoll Sisters were founded in 1912 in the United States (the Mother House is found in upstate New York) but very early on reached out to the rest of the world. They established missions and ministries in different countries, and welcomed women of every nationality to join the order. The Maryknoll nuns arrived in the Philippines in 1926, when they founded the Malabon Normal School. Their early institutional involvement was mainly through the training of future teachers in Malabon and on Pennsylvania Street in Malate, and after the War, beside Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights. But Vatican II ushered in a radical reexamination of ministries among religious orders, the Maryknoll sisters among them. Since by then Maryknoll College was graduating only a few education majors, the sisters decided to leave education work for "works of justice and social transformation among the economically deprived and socially marginalized."

But though Maryknoll has since become Miriam College, the sisters have kept their ties to the school they founded, and to the women they helped mold.

* * *

AMONG THE ACTIVITIES to mark the 75th anniversary of Maryknoll/Miriam College and the 75th year of the Maryknoll Sisters in the country, is the launching on Sept. 8 of the book "Maryknoll Sisters in the Philippines" by Virginia Fabella, MM and Dorothy Mulligan, MM.

The book's cover sums up the evolution of the sisters' work in the country. One photo shows a nun in the familiar and beloved black-and-white habit with the peaked veil with two young girls in the old green-and-tan uniform jumper. The other shows a sister in "civilian dress," holding what look like stringbeans beside two peasant women. The pictures speak eloquently of how far the Maryknoll sisters' transformation has gone, from remote authority figures to friends and partners of the folks in the communities they have vowed to serve.

And yet the women's college the sisters left behind continues, in its own way, to serve the ends of the congregation and its mission in the Philippines. In her "State of Miriam Address" last Jan. 30, Miriam College president Tatti Licuanan articulated the institution's vision as being that of "a premier Catholic institution of learning, forming leaders in service." Its graduates, she said, are envisioned to be "persons committed to the service of the Filipino nation, who combine competence and caring, are rooted in Filipino culture and Asian tradition, and yet are citizens of the world."

* * *

IN A LUNCHEON last Wednesday, Tatti and other Miriam officials informed alumnae leaders about the coming 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee celebrations on Sept. 8, which will also mark the kick-off of a major fund-raising drive, which aims to raise P75 million over two years.

Of this amount, the Miriam Board of Trustees Steering Committee has earmarked P55 million for an endowment fund for scholarships and faculty development, and the remaining P20 million for the improvement of the aging Marian Auditorium.

The endowment fund for scholarships and faculty development, it was made clear, will serve as seed money for a continuous campaign that "ensures that the scholarships will continue in perpetuity." Aside from increasing the number of deserving students receiving scholarships, the fund will also subsidize the expenses of faculty members pursuing higher studies.

As for the Marian Auditorium, the site of many memorable school activities as well as concerts, musicals and plays open to the public, areas for improvement will include ventilation, acoustics and sound, lighting, the stage and the seats.

* * *

AMONG THE GOOD news Tatti shared with the Maryknoll/Miriam graduates at the luncheon was how Miriam students continue to uphold the highest academic standards set by those who came before them.

In the last school year, for instance, Miriam High School was No. 1 in the National Secondary Achievement Test (NSAT) among private schools in Quezon City, No. 9 among public and private schools in the National Capital Region (ranking third behind the Philippine Science High School and Quezon City Science High School in Quezon City), and No. 27 in the national listing.

A large number of students also received awards and honors in academics, athletics and the arts. One surprising fact: Miriam is the only private educational institution that houses an orchestra, the Metro Manila Community Orchestra, based at the Music Center, with Coke Bolipata as artistic director, Chino Toledo as music director, and Teresita Soriano, Music Center director, as executive director.

These developments, along with such admirable continuing efforts as the Environmental Education Center, the Center for Peace Education and the Women and Gender Institute, prove that Miriam indeed continues to be the sort of institution and mission that fired the dreams of the hardy Maryknoll Sisters 75 years ago.

Undermining institutions

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AT ONE point in the Senate hearing on the alleged money laundering and criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Col. Victor Corpus, head of the military intelligence unit and Lacson's chief accuser, found himself being accused instead of undermining our society's institutions. The senators pinned him down on his statement that judges, media people and public officials were accepting bribes to protect criminal syndicates.

One of his key informants, Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, a self-described civilian agent in the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) under Lacson, suffered a worse fate. He was ordered detained at the Senate basement for making statements at the hearing that he could not support with evidence. The senators got bogged down with the side issues, and it took a while before they could begin to hear the main item in the agenda—the allegations against Lacson.

The senators are right to demand that Corpus be specific in his charges and to name names when necessary. They are correct in insisting that he present solid evidence to substantiate his claims. They have the responsibility to assess the information he gives and to question him on the procedure he followed to get it. If they find his evidence empty and his explanations inadequate, they should demand that he be sanctioned for recklessness and incompetence.

But the senators cannot do this to Corpus without hearing him first. They are supposed to be engaged in fact-finding. They are not judges. They must resist the urge to rebuke or scold resource persons and witnesses whose statements they do not like, except when they are discourteous, unruly or uncooperative. They can remind them that they are under oath, and admonish them to be circumspect in their statements. But by what moral right can they order the detention of a witness just because they find his testimony to be incredible?

Corpus has said that he is aware that he is putting his entire career on the line for accusing a member of the Senate of serious crimes. He says he is ready to be proven wrong and to suffer the consequences. He knows he could be sacked from his position. He could also be court-martialed, stripped of his rank and jailed. But it is one thing for him to be found making allegations that turn out to be baseless and another to be accused of undermining institutions.

Are our institutions undermined when someone says they are not working properly because they have been corrupted? Political analysts say this all the time and nobody seems to make a big thing out of it. Not too long ago, Joseph Estrada denounced what he called "hoodlums in robes and in uniform" in reference to corrupt judges and policemen, and people thought he was being perceptive. No one accused him of undermining our institutions.

The credibility of institutions is not lost just because we criticize their officials. Citizens begin to distrust their institutions when they see that the results of institutional processes violate their deepest expectations. Have we been getting good leaders by our existing system of elections? Do our schools produce responsible and capable citizens? Does our judicial system deliver justice? These are the questions we should be asking instead of debating whether institutions are weakened by public criticism.

If our institutions were strong and reliable, we would not be wondering to this day who killed Ninoy Aquino. We would know how Marcos accumulated wealth by illegal means and who among his associates made it possible. We would know which lawmakers were elected with the aid of *"dagdag-bawas."* The financier behind the payola scandal at the House of Representatives would no longer be a secret. The police officers who ordered the summary execution of the Kuratong Baleleng gang would be known by now.

My own view is that our basic institutions remain weak, and that is why we have had to go back often to the political arena to settle many questions that should have been routinely resolved. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel gave up the Senate presidency at the height of the impeachment trial because he thought he could no longer preside over a damaged institution. Joker Arroyo, himself now a senator, walked out of the trial with the rest of the prosecution team because he could no longer trust in the Senate's fairness. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo succeeded to the presidency by virtue of People Power II because the nation saw that it could no longer expect justice from a compromised Senate and did not believe either that a snap election was the best way to solve the impasse in the presidency. Cory Aquino became President after the people ignored the spurious official results of the 1986 snap election and ousted the incumbent President, Ferdinand Marcos. She threw away the 1973 Constitution and appointed a commission to draft a new one.

In all these instances, we set aside our institutions because they were being used to thwart the very things we value. But every time we did so, after employing extra-constitutional means to set things right, we went about rebuilding these institutions and restoring the rule of law. We are able to do this, I think, because we have realized that a functioning institutional system does not happen overnight but is rather something we must achieve, and that we should not equate institutions with their present occupants.

Corpus is not the enemy. The greatest enemies of democratic institutions are not their critics but their corrupt practitioners.

* * *

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion.
Email us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

Are some members of the military in collusion with the Abu Sayyaf?

THE ALLEGATIONS by Basilan priest and former Abu Sayyaf hostage Fr. Cirilo "Loi" Nacorda that members of the military are in collusion with the bandit group has stunned a scandal-weary nation, but for residents of Basilan the charges are old hat. This week, those residents will have a chance to make their case, as the Senate committee chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. begins hearings in Lamitan town itself—the same place where an apparently surrounded band of bandits escaped a military cordon in controversial circumstances.

Let the facts speak for themselves

BY JOSE TORRES JR.
Author, "Into the Mountain"

AS A journalist, I write about facts.

I gather information—go to the field to see for myself, investigate and talk to people—and write stories based on data at hand. I don't invent, much less fabricate, what I write.

I've written stories about the Abu Sayyaf since 1993 based on interviews I did and data I gathered in the field.

Early this year, I spent almost three months in the island province of Basilan to do research for a book on the experiences of hostages abducted by the Abu Sayyaf in March 2000. I lived in the village of Tumahubong in Sumisip town where most of the victims, and some of the bandits, live. I talked to them, ate with them and worked with them.

After the siege of Lamitan town in June 2001, I went back to Basilan and followed the trail of the bandits when they "escaped" from the Dr. Jose Ma. Torres Hospital. I talked to the residents and asked the militiamen who shot it out with the bandits to reenact what happened on that fateful day.

Residents recalled that the bandits led by ASG leader Abu Sabaya arrived Friday night, June 1, in Lamitan town. Early in the morning of June 2, at least 70 Scout Rangers arrived in Lamitan. The troops disembarked from a ship, boarded two military trucks and, with no briefing on the situation in Lamitan, proceeded to the town center. Some were not even issued firearms.

"A lot of us did not have guns," a Scout Ranger, who asked not to be identified, later told a television crew. "We had an M-60 [machine gun] and an M-203 [grenade launcher] but did not have ammunition for it. The other truck had the ammunition but did not have an M-203."

The trucks passed by Saint Peter's Church, not knowing that it was a kill zone. The Abu Sayyaf fired on the troops, killing four soldiers and wounding 40 others. "We had no idea they were there," one soldier said. "We were told to go to the brigade, not engage the enemy."

By 2 p.m. of June 2, Saturday, soldiers already surrounded the church and the hospital, ready to flush out the bandits. All exits were covered.

Residents said, however, that soldiers at the back of the hospital were ordered to move out for a briefing at about 4 p.m. Members of the Civilian Volunteers Organization (CVO) were even reprimanded when they refused to follow the order. With the soldiers on retreat, the bandits made a beeline for the hospital's backdoor and escaped into the night.

Lamitan residents accused the military of putting up an "acoustic war." They said the bandits were walking casually away from the hospital until the civilian volunteers shot it out with them. People were also wondering why the soldiers kept on shooting until around 5 a.m. on Sunday, June 3, when the bandits made their escape as early as 5:30 in the afternoon of Saturday, June 2.

Thirty minutes before the bandits left the hospital, some hostages said they overheard Abu Sabaya making a call through his satellite phone. "*Akala ko ba clear na, bakit nagpapaputok pa kayo* (I thought it's already clear, why are you still shooting)?" the hostages quoted the bandit as saying.

Former hostage Marissa Rante said she was not surprised. On May 3, 2000, when she and other Mount Punoh Mahadji hostages were "rescued," Abu Sabaya also made a similar call on his phone.

There are more facts—a general giving out P1,000 bills, soldiers fighting it out with the bandits with no reinforcements—that Basilan residents have already revealed to media. There are more.

Is the military colluding with the Abu Sayyaf?

As an institution, the AFP may not be guilty. A number of foot soldiers may be corrupt and have unwittingly sold or provided war materiel to the bandits, but I believe they were not capable of letting a group of bandits escape. Many foot soldiers even want revenge for the death of their comrades.

What is clear is the Abu Sayyaf, in its early years, was partly a military and police creation, as admitted by deep penetration agent Edwin Angeles and other government officials in the past. Is it a monster that has turned against its master? Or is it an attack dog turned loose?

Torres' book was launched by Claretian Publications last July 28.

ILLUSTRATION AND PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

This much is clear: the issue of AFP-Abu connivance does not boil down to whether one believes Fr. Loi Nacorda or not

The questions remain without answers

BY BARON R. CERVANTES
Chair, Aklas Pilipino–Young Officers Union

ONE must assess or analyze the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking incidents this year and last as being beyond mere kidnap-for-ransom. The first incident (the Sipadan crisis) may have been instigated by internal politics turning ugly and in order to divert the attention of the Filipino people. The second abduction (the Dos Palmas incident) involved local people taken from a resort whose location is near a known camp of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Was there collusion among the extremists and the local elected officials as well as certain members of the military and police top brass? That's a question which up to now remains unanswered.

From the location and the circumstances, it appears that the extremists knew exactly who to take and where to pass and escape. Those kidnapped were known personalities in their own right and well-to-do.

The first incident clearly violated the government's "no ransom policy" when ransom was eventually paid and even involved the participation of other countries.

The second incident happened after a new administration took power from a duly elected presidency through a so-called people's revolt. The new administration firmly followed the "no ransom policy" and even ordered the total annihilation of the extremists.

Rumors persist, however, that despite the heavy bombardment of the known extremist lairs, private negotiations went underway. The first to be released was a well-known and very wealthy businessman. It was alleged that a couple of millions changed hands with the involvement of certain government emissaries, which includes locally elected and appointed government officials and military top brass.

There were hints that certain government emissaries involved in the negotiations during the first abduction also had a hand in the second abduction. Possible? Maybe, because one faction of the extremist group wanted to surrender and was willing to blow the whistle on those who made money in the first abduction. They were eventually prevented from doing so (amid questions about the propriety of a known former elected local official from the North meddling in the affair).

Political kibitzers also hinted that the second abduction was used as a diversion in order to allegedly preempt the administration from doing further damage to two opposition candidates in the May elections. The supposed anomalies happened somewhere in the southern part of the Philippines and the second abduction happened in the same area. It was further alleged that two contestants from the administration became beneficiaries of these special operations.

Coincidence or not, one should look at both incidents as being beyond kidnap-for-ransom because politics may have had a hand. We must also consider how the Abu Sayyaf Group was created. Who created it, why, and for what purpose? Was it a special operation that went out of control? What is the reason why it is taking too long to crush the terrorists? The longer the crisis goes, the deeper we sink in embarrassment.

Our economy has suffered tremendously; tourism has been affected. Investors have become more wary of investing in the Philippines.

Progress for the southernmost part of the Philippines is affected while the crisis remains unresolved. Many of our countrymen in that part of the country suffered. Innocent lives were lost. Soldiers were killed for a cause that is either simulated or orchestrated.

Unless this government gets its act together and seriously resolves the issues surrounding both incidents, the same may happen all over and might even be used as a vicious instrument for personal gain.

Talking points

FULL disclosure. I edited Mr. Torres' book, so I am not unfamiliar with the issue. I must point out, however, that the book does not focus on the alleged connivance between some members of the military and the Abu Sayyaf; instead, it is a faithful recounting of the experience of several residents of Tumahubong, Sumisip, Basilan who were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf on March 20, 2000. The issue only arises because, for some hostages, the alleged collusion was an unforgettable part of their ordeal.

More disclosure. The chief military spokesman was invited to join the discussion, but events in the last few days prevented him from doing so. This must be kept in mind, lest the reader mistake his absence for admission and fall into the fallacy of emphasis.

The whole problem with the rumors of collusion is that it fits the classic profile of a conspiracy theory. This is not to say that the rumors aren't true, only that, even if they weren't, they come across as truth just the same. Why? Because, like any persistent conspiracy theory, collusion seems to make intuitive sense.

(While there are other details in the assassination of John F. Kennedy that cry out to be explained, the most important factor that explains the persistence of the conspiracy angle is at bottom intuitive: the sense that it takes more than a lone gunman to kill a US president.)

Hence, even the rumors and allegations that Captain Cervantes has strung together have a logic of their own. We do not know the provenance of his sources, or whether he is personally privy to some of the information he details, but the mostly rhetorical questions he asks point to a foregone (or, conspiratorially, a foreordained) conclusion.

How, the public asks, can a rag-tag band keep several well-trained battalions at bay? Even if one factors in guerrilla conditions, the current stand-off still doesn't seem right. It is, simply put, counterintuitive.

What Torres seeks to do, in a straightforward way that was not available to him in his book because of its elliptical narrative structure, is to repair to the level of facts.

First, he builds his credibility by outlining his methods of research. Only then does he itemize the "facts" as he discovered them. Or rediscovered, because some of them have already been written about. Thus laid out, he then allows them to speak for themselves.—*J. Nery*

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Brunei prince faces $575-M debtor's suit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN—Fresh from a humiliating auction of his failed business assets, Brunei's Prince Jefri is accepting a summons in a $575-million debtor's suit, his lawyers said.

"I have been instructed by the London lawyers to accept the summons," Zainidi bin Haji Abdul Hamid of Zainidi and Associates, the local law firm representing the prince, said late Friday.

If the 47 year-old prince, who spent billions of dollars of the tiny Borneo sultanate's oil wealth, had not accepted he was liable to suffer more ignominy.

Creditors of his failed Amedeo Development Corp construction and supply firm were ready to publish the court notice against him in Brunei and London newspapers after failing to serve the summons in person.

Last year Prince Jefri settled out of court in a $15-billion suit ordered three years ago by his now estranged brother, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

The sultan had made the prince his finance minister and entrusted him with the country's foreign currency reserves.

The size of the settlement was never disclosed, and for the past year Brunei has been selling off the fast cars, luxury yachts and whatever else it could salvage from the prince's years of spending and failed investments.

Last week's auction of Amedeo's detritus, which ranged from tons of polished marble, to aircraft flight simulators and fixtures and fittings meant for luxury hotels and palaces, fetched $7.5 million—which won't cover much of the prince's debts.

Prince Jefri, who now lives in Paris and London, issued a statement through his agent on Thursday distancing himself from the auction and criticizing the way the liquidators had handled the fire sale.

Now the scene is set for another round of complex civil liquidation, delving into how the free-spending prince blew a hole in Brunei's formerly bulging pockets.

Top London lawyers will be flown in to the Muslim sultanate in the northwest corner of the island of Borneo to argue over who owes what.

While the royal coffers were severely depleted by a combination of the prince's shopaholic tendencies, jet-setting and playboy lifestyle, Brunei still has many billions of dollars worth of untapped wealth in the ground.

The sultanate has been more prudent about the way it manages its oil and gas reserves than its money.

After the Prince Jefri fiasco and the Asian crisis the economy is still in the doldrums with low levels of investment and construction activity, but currency reserves have been built back up to around $23 billion, with oil and gas exports bringing in around $2.3 billion a year.

At present rates of extraction there are 40 years of life left in oil reserves, but large offshore tracts have still to be opened up for exploration, and gas reserves are expected to play an even bigger role in the economy's future.

If Brunei spends the money more wisely, analysts say, its 330,000 citizens and coming generations could remain better off than most people in neighboring Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia. *Reuters*

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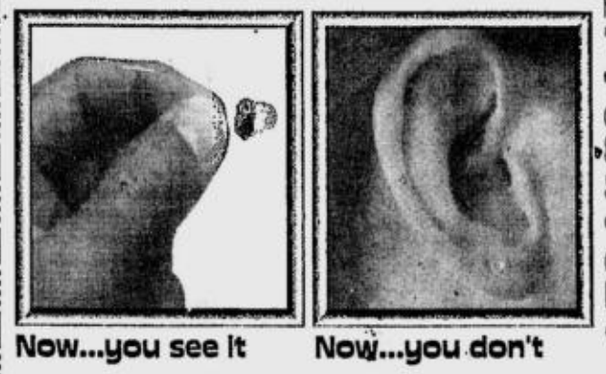

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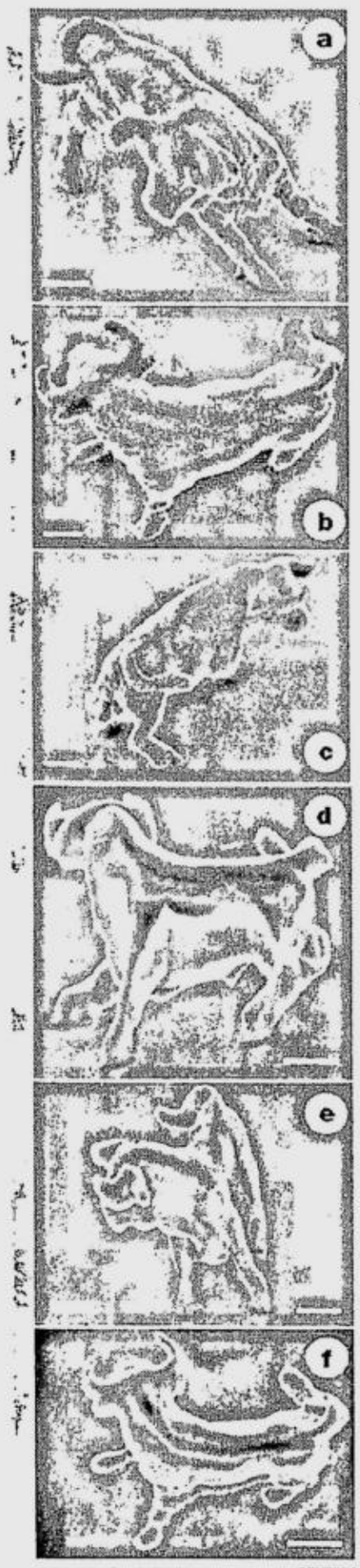

MICRO ART REUTERS

Electron micrographic images of a bull measuring 10 microns long by 7 microns high—approximately the size of a red blood cell—are depicted in this combination photo from the Osaka University laboratory of applied physics professor Satoshi Kawati. The bull, made from synthetic resin with a laser technique called two-photon photo-polymerization, is the smallest model animal ever made, according to Kawata.

N. Korea: No talks under US terms

SEOUL—North Korea yesterday said it has no intention of holding talks with the United States as long as it continues to raise the issue of Pyongyang's weapons capability.

"The DPRK (North Korea) and the US cannot sit at the negotiating table as long as the latter has a dagger in its belt and no success can be expected even if such dialogue takes place," North Korea's official Rodong Shinmun newspaper said in a commentary.

"The 'issue of the reduction of nuclear, missile and conventional weapons' is a precondition for dialogue that the US unilaterally imposed upon the DPRK," it said.

US-North Korean contacts were put on hold when President George W. Bush took office in January and called for a review of his predecessor's policies that had led to a flurry of exchanges between the Cold War foes in late 2000.

But Washington said in June that it was willing to resume talks on a range of issues, including Pyongyang's nuclear program, missile program, and concentration of troops and weapons on its border with South Korea. *Reuters*

7th Fleet in show of force

HONG KONG—Two US aircraft carrier battle groups have staged a rare exercise in the South China Sea in an apparent show of support for Taiwan as China conducts its biggest ever war games.

The USS Carl Vinson and the USS Constellation led Friday's one-day exercise involving 13 other vessels including three submarines, about 150 aircraft and more than 15,000 personnel.

The exercise was a "rare meeting at sea" for two US battle groups, an official report on the US 7th Fleet's Internet website said.

The "passing exercise" was believed to have comprised the launching of fighter jets and joint operations between crews from the giant aircraft carriers.

"Along with the valuable training benefits achieved during the exercise, the meeting of the two aircraft carrier battle groups on the high seas demonstrates a commitment to providing peace and cooperation in the region while preserving the right to freedom of navigation."

The website report did not give the exact location in the South China Sea for the exercises. The Constellation is due to arrive in Hong Kong on Monday for a port call. *AFP*

S. Korea gets failing grade in aviation safety

WASHINGTON—The Federal Aviation Administration said South Korea does not meet international safety standards.

The FAA did not examine South Korean airlines, but rather the government agency that oversees the industry in that country. The FAA said the South Korean government was working to meet the safety standards.

The FAA routinely reviews the civil aviation authorities of countries with airlines that fly into the United States, and releases its findings to the public. Those countries are required to follow the safety standards outlined by the International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations agency.

South Korean airlines will be able to continue to fly to and from the United States but will be more closely watched by the FAA and will not be able to expand or change their services. *AP*

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Israel braces itself for suicide bombings

JERUSALEM—Israel was braced for more suicide bombings yesterday after troops shot dead one Palestinian and wounded 10 others, and authorities arrested two Palestinian militants they say intended to set off a bomb in a crowded port city.

As intelligence reports warned of further attacks, a military spokesperson said Israel had tightened its grip around Bethlehem, Ramallah and Qalqiliya in the West Bank in a bid to stop Palestinians from getting around roadblocks and entering Israel.

Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in the Gaza Strip late Friday and wounded 10 others, three seriously, a hospital source said.

Abdel Rahman Abu Bakra, 29, was shot in the head when Israeli tanks opened fire with cannon and machine guns after entering an autonomous Palestinian sector at Khan Yunes in the south of the Gaza Strip.

Police on Friday set up blockades on the main thoroughfares in northern Israel, in particular in the Haifa area, at entrances to the port, and the Hadera region northwest of Tel Aviv.

Army patrols, border guards and explosives sniffer dogs were also deployed in force in many areas, including around the central market in west Jerusalem.

Israel claimed Friday evening that the measures had paid dividends, announcing the arrest of two members of the militant Palestinian group, Islamic Jihad, said to be carrying a bomb they intended to set off in Haifa.

Security officials said the pair were detained by agents of Israel's domestic security agency, Shin Beth, in the Arab Israeli village of Baka el-Gharbyeh, in the Wadi Ara area northeast of Tel Aviv on Friday morning.

They were said to be carrying a bomb packed with 10 kg of explosives, nails and chunks of metal.

The Israeli press was full of warnings of further Palestinian attacks as the violence that has left 720 people dead since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in September showed no signs of letting up.

The Yediot Ahoronot paper reported Israeli security had received "hot" pinpoint warnings of intended suicide bomb attacks in the north and center of Israel by Islamic Jihad and its larger rival, Hamas.

Public radio cited a senior security official warning that the Palestinians were trying to smuggle explosives and car bombs from the Gaza Strip into Israel.

The heightened tensions come after two recent suicide bombings in west Jerusalem and Haifa. Along with the bombers, 15 people died and more than 100 others were injured in those two incidents.

"We have precise information about planned attacks by terrorists of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad," Avi Pazner, advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, told journalists late Friday.

Meanwhile, Israeli tanks and armored troop carriers remained on standby to enter Beit Jala, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, if Palestinian gunmen opened fire again on the neighbouring Jewish settlement of Gilo.

On the diplomatic front, Osama al-Baz, a top aide to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said officials from Washington and Cairo would spend the next two days studying ideas put forward during his talks with US Secretary of State Colin Powell to return peace to the region. *AFP*

REUTERS

AN ISRAELI soldier points his rifle during clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron Aug. 17. Recent violence in the area has increased international concern over the conflict, which has killed about 680 people—more than 500 Palestinians and about 150 Israelis.

WORLDBRIEFS

US wildfires spreading

PORTLAND, Oregon—The United States has sent in the Marines to fight the spreading wildfires that continue to burn across 10 western states, destroying forests and threatening communities with evacuation. On Friday, the Pentagon ordered two more Army battalions of 600 to 800 soldiers and support staff to prepare to join the effort, bringing to 1,700 the total of Army, Marine, Air Force and Army National Guard involved in fighting western wildfires, the US Department of Defense said. Meanwhile 21,000 civilian firefighters continued to battle flames of 32 large fires covering 236,540 has., with the worst fires in Washington state and Oregon, the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, said Friday. Four new large fires were reported in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, the agency said. *AFP*

Bush break almost a record

CRAWFORD, Texas—President George W. Bush has decided to cut short a month-long vacation at his ranch here and return to Washington Aug. 31, leaving him a few days shy of the longest modern presidential break. Bush would have broken Richard Nixon's record—30 days, set in 1969—if he had left his beloved Prairie Chapel ranch as planned Sept. 3, but has decided to leave Aug. 31, spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Friday. The president arrived on the 650-ha. property on Aug. 4 for a break roughly twice as long as the average American's vacation. *AFP*

Balloonist abandons quest

FOSSETT

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—Thunderstorms over the Atlantic forced US millionaire Steve Fossett to abandon his fifth attempt to circle the globe in a solo balloon flight Friday in what he described as the "greatest disappointment" of his life. "I think my initial reaction was that this is the greatest disappointment of my life," Fossett told reporters in a live telephone conference from his landing spot in southern Brazil, relayed through mission control here. A decision was made to abort the flight, some 20,417 km into the voyage, after a cold front and thunderstorms in eastern Argentina and the southern Atlantic made crossing the body of water a dangerous proposition, according to chief mission meteorologist Bob Rice. *AFP*

Jamaica moving to legalize use of marijuana

KINGSTON, Jamaica—In the heart of downtown Kingston, about a dozen men stand in an open-air marijuana emporium stacking long buds of marijuana despite the plant's current illegal status in Jamaica.

"High-grade, the best . . . smell it," says a dreadlocked 27-year-old Rastafarian at the "Luke Lane" market, who gives his name only as Toro as he holds a bud in the air and beckons a potential customer. Sale completed, he lights a spliff of rolled marijuana and smiles.

These days, Toro has a lot to be happy about.

A government commission has recommended that marijuana be legalized for personal use, a move the Jamaican government will likely endorse, but one that has enraged the United States, which has spent millions of dollars trying to eradicate the crop on the Caribbean island.

"(Marijuana's) reputation among the people as a panacea and a spiritually enhancing substance is so strong that it must be regarded as culturally entrenched," said the commission's report, released Thursday.

The National Commission on Ganja—as marijuana is known—recommended the possession of small amounts of marijuana be legalized for personal use by adults. It also said the use of marijuana for religious purposes should be permitted. This is especially important to Jamaica's Rastafarian minority, who worship deceased Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie as a prophet and use marijuana as a sacrament.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson last year appointed the commission, which included academics and doctors. So far, he and elected officials have not publicly commented on the report. But Ralston Smith, an aide to Patterson, said Thursday: "My gut feeling is that the commission's recommendations will be followed."

Any change to existing drug laws would have to be approved by Parliament. However, any moves toward legalization, even for personal use, could cause friction with the United States and violate the 1988 United Nations Convention Against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Jamaica signed the accord.

"The US opposes the decriminalization of marijuana," Michael Koplovsky, a US Embassy spokesperson, said Thursday. *AP*

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◆ Optional Life	
❑ Maturity	date of maturity
❑ CSV, Death, Disability	5 days
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◆ Pre-Need	5 days
◆ Funeral	8 hours
◆ General Insurance	
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WHO official links dengue to state of RP economy

BY GIA DAMASO DUMO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Filipinos should no longer wonder why dengue plagues the country whenever the economy goes down.

A consultant of the World Health Organization's Western Pacific regional office said when people are faced with hard times, they tend to "neglect water and sanitation issues" to attend to their more pressing needs like work and food.

"They would put off doing repairs on leaking taps, or clearing empty lots with mosquito breeding places which eventually leads to the proliferation of dengue vectors," Dr. Aviva Ron, a consultant for health insurance infrastructure, said.

Ron said people who have health insurance are less likely to die or suffer from an advanced stage of dengue than their non-insured counterparts.

This is because people who have health insurance would often seek medical consultation earlier, or at the onset of the illness, when it is easier to manage, she said.

She cited a local social health insurance program called the ORT health plus scheme (OHPS) as an example. This scheme benefits more than 700 member-families from its free medical consultations and other health services.

"So far, although we have some dengue cases, none of them needed confinement and was treated on an out-patient basis," Dr. Jenny Escalo, OHPS medical coordinator, said.

"It is possible that our members do not think twice before getting a check-up because they are not worried about their medical expenses."

In the Ilocos region, the Department of Health regional office has reported at least 826 dengue cases, including six deaths, from January to July this year but health officials have repeatedly stated that the disease is "under control."

According to WHO statistics, about 500,000 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever affecting mostly children require hospitalization each year and roughly 5 percent die. Without proper treatment, the fatality rates can exceed 20 percent.

The spread of dengue is caused by four dengue viruses and their mosquito vectors, particularly the predominantly urban species Aedes aegypti, according to the WHO.

Further increasing urban populations are bringing more people into contact with this vector, especially in areas where household water storage is common and where garbage disposal services are inadequate.

The *Aedes albopictus*, a secondary dengue vector in Asia, has spread to the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa due largely to the international trade in used tires, the WHO said.

In the Visayas, the number of dengue cases continued to rise in with Kalibo and Capiz reporting a total of 95 persons downed by dengue fever over the last two months.

Two persons were also reported to have died of dengue fever, one each in Kalibo and in Maayon, Capiz, over the last weeks.

Records from various parts of the Visayas showed that at least 600 people have been hospitalized and 10 others had died of dengue fever in Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental Leyte, Samar and Cebu since January. Most of the dengue cases occurred between June and July.

The latest fatality was identified as Clarise Deocampo, 4, of Barangay Poblacion, Maayon, Capiz, who died last week after being stricken with the mosquito-borne disease, records at the Capiz Provincial Health Office revealed.

Deocampo was among 35 persons afflicted with dengue fever in Capiz, health officials in the province said.

In Kalibo, hospital records showed that from June to early August, 60 persons had been hospitalized due to dengue fever, with one fatality.

But Dr. Landelino Meñez, Aklan's provincial health officer, said the situation in Aklan was still far from alarming.

Health officials however urged the public to take preventive measures.

They said it was important for people to clean their homes and surroundings and get rid of stagnant water.

More dengue cases were recorded in the Ilocos region this year compared with the number during the peak period of the disease in 1998.

As of Aug. 5, 941 cases, including six fatalities, were reported in hospitals and rural health units in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan.

In 1998, hospitals recorded at least 400 cases with 13 fatalities. The list, however, did not include those in the rural health units.

La Union, which was the most affected in 1998, is still the most vulnerable to dengue in the region with 339 cases and a fatality.

Pangasinan followed with 306 cases, including four fatalities; Ilocos Sur, 248 cases, one fatality; and Ilocos Norte, 48 cases.

Jovencio Orduña, regional director of the Department of Health, said the increase in reported cases could be attributed to more people now seeking medical attention, even for slight fever, for fear that they have the disease. ***With reports by Odon S. Bandiola and Gerry T. Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Central Luzon , Southern Luzon and Visayas will have monsoon rains while the rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains	HI 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 21°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Rains	HI 26° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 26°
Calapan	Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Rains	HI 28° Lo 23°
Roxas	Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 27°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/19/01

Church disputes Army report of encounter

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The local police of Arakan, Cotabato, initiated an investigation of the encounter between militiamen and New People's Army rebels on Sunday after new information indicated that the encounter could actually be an attempted massacre.

The new information was relayed by the Catholic Church's justice and peace office in Arakan town.

A copy of the statement obtained by radio dxND contradicted the military's claim that Cecil Ventura and a certain Pedro were NPA rebels, and that they died from a legitimate encounter.

Because of this new information, Insp. Susana Guhiling, chief of the Arakan police said she ordered an investigation of the incident.

She admitted that the militiamen did not coordinate with her office when they operated in the village.

Lt. Peter Paul Paul Iringan of the 12th Special Forces of the Philippine Army based in Saguing, Makilala, earlier said the two were killed in a chance encounter with elements of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

Iringan said Ventura and Pedro were part of a seven-man NPA team under Commander Jessie of the NPA's Front 53, who were supposed to conduct a propaganda lecture in the village when they met the militiamen.

Iringan said aside from killing the two rebels, the militiamen also captured another guerrilla identified as Jennifer Barnizo, 17.

Recovered from the suspected rebels were an M-16 Armalite rifle, a shotgun and a Garand rifle. Also recovered were a hand grenade and four combat backpacks.

But the Church's report signed by Arakan parish priest Giorgio Licini, PIME, said there was no encounter between the Cafgu and alleged NPA members.

It said that five Cafgu members opened fire on the house of Pedro Tagalan, 46, single and farmer.

Tagalan suffered multiple gunshot wounds and died on the spot. Also killed was Cecil Ventura, 17.

Ventura died of multiple gunshot wounds.

The report said a certain Zeny and her two children survived the attack, although the 40-year-old woman was wounded in the shoulder.

Based on accounts of neighbors, who witnessed the incident, no shots were fired from the house.

Cafgu members also seized the personal belongings of those killed, according to the report.

The report also said residents have vouched for Tagalan's character saying he was not a member of the NPA. ***Rosa-May V. de Guzman and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Customs corruption worries USAid official

DAVAO CITY—The customs chief here urged the private sector to identify customs personnel who are involved in irregularities and corruption in the bureau, including the sale of customs documents at exorbitant prices.

Earlier, Patricia Buckles, mission director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAid), identified the Bureau of Customs in the Philippines as one of the most corrupt government agencies in the country.

Customs personnel, Buckles said, would sell customs forms at P1,500 to businessmen when the same can be had for P20 in Manila and P500 in Cebu.

An importer is required to submit at least seven customs forms before they could trade in the local market but the amount they should spend is less than P200.

However, unscrupulous customs personnel would sell the form at much higher prices.

"This is one of the few examples that businessmen have to deal with on the ground on a daily basis. If this is indeed the case then we can only begin to imagine the toll on Mindanao's competitiveness. One small, local incident of rent seeking, when multiplied a thousand-fold, can have a devastating effect on an entire economy," Buckles said.

Datu Mina Dianalan, customs district collector for Southern Mindanao, said he should be furnished details of similar incidents so he could act on them.

He also formalized the appeal by sending a letter to the USAid on Aug. 13.

Dianalan said he was trying to convince Buckles to provide specific situations, names or details when customs personnel committed wrongdoings.

"Please (be) rest assured that if and when our people are found guilty or our system are somewhat faulty, we shall forthwith implement changes or corrections in order to show our sincere effort to improve and professionalize our service to the customs clientele," Dianalan said in a letter. Copies of the letter were also provided media men.

But while businessmen usually complained of alleged corruption in the government, Ombudsman for Mindanao Antonio Valenzuela said that businessmen are the most corrupt persons in the country as they are always after profits.

Valenzuela said businessmen, aside from being corrupt, are also selfish and greedy.

He said to avoid paying correct taxes and tariffs, businessmen provide grease money to customs and revenue officials to ensure their transactions would run smoothly.

Valenzuela made this statement during an open forum at the start of the three-day First Mindanao Forum on Investment Promotion Through Transparent Governance.

He urged the apparently startled participants, mostly businessmen, to become the Ombudsman's partners in efforts to combat graft and corruption.

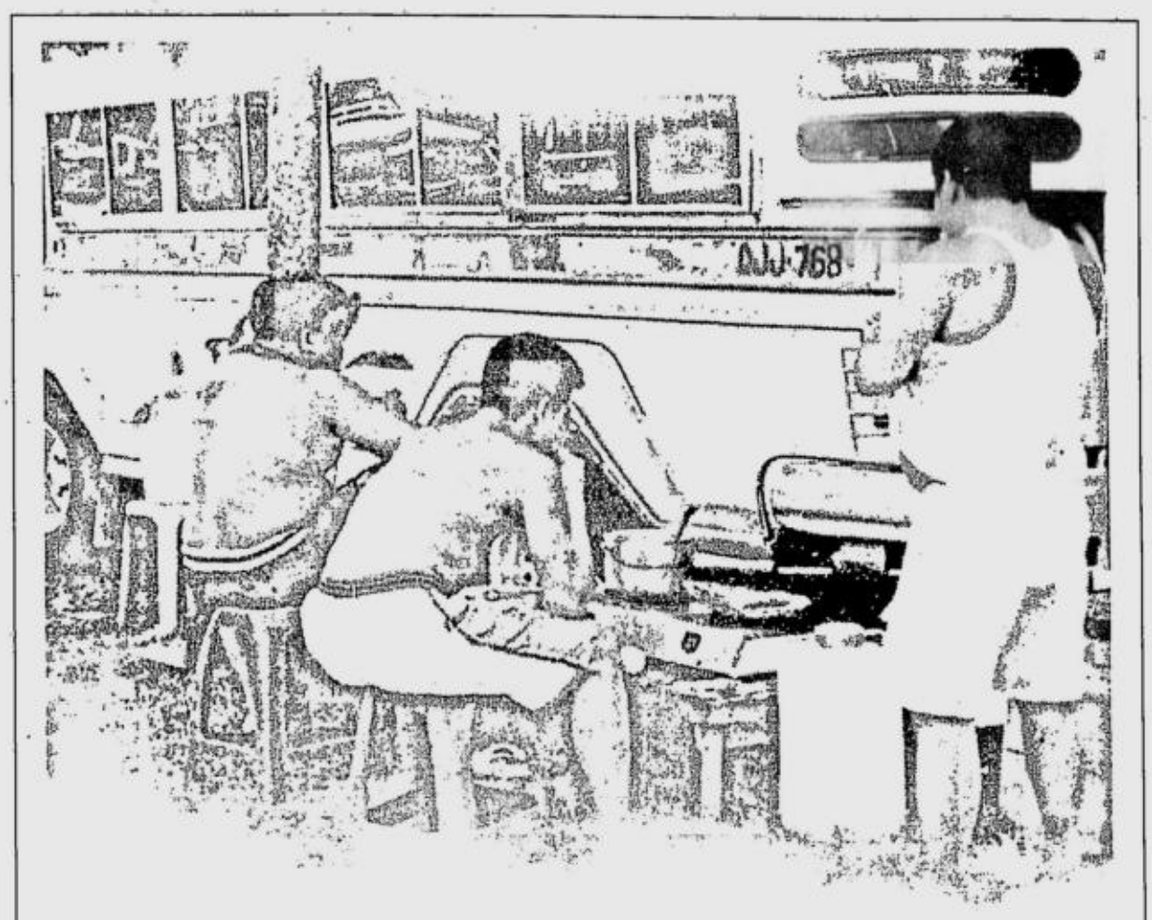
Valenzuela admitted that there was difficulty in fighting graft and corruption but that it has not deterred the Ombudsman from doing its job.

Joji Ilagan-Bian, chair of the Mindanao Business Council said pointing an accusing finger at anybody might not be the proper thing to do although she admitted that graft and corruption is a valid issue.

Claro Garcia, president of the Caraga Council for Economic Development, also supported Bian.

"We all have a role to play in this," Garcia said.

Garcia said Valenzuela was only overreacting, saying that the Ombudsman was partly right and partly wrong. *Allan Nawal and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



FOOD TO GO MELVIN GASCON

It's a mobile world for these merchants in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, who take a break in their itinerary to cook and eat their meal beside their stretched jeep. Eating by the roadside is also a way for most travelers in the province to avoid the exorbitant costs of food at bus stopovers around the province.

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Venue: Makati Sports Club, L. P. Leviste St. (formerly Alfaro St.) cor. Gallardo St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
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LAND GRABBING ISSUE

Pampanga's poor doubt GMA plans

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MASANTOL, Pampanga—Juan Usi, 75, froze in disbelief when he heard President Macapagal-Arroyo promised good governance in her State of the nation Address last month.

After he heard the President pledge to create million jobs in agriculture and distribute 100,000 hectares of public land, Usi turned off his transistor radio.

Usi, a fisherman, said he could not reconcile the President's assurances with the realities of massive displacements and land grabbing in Bagang and 11 other villages here where the Japanese government is funding the P2.7-billion Pampanga Delta Development Project's flood control component.

Usi said he sensed the contradiction in the plans and actions of the President because behind the two problems that plagued him and 1,000 displaced families in Masantol since 1992 is an appointee of Ms Macapagal in the health department.

"If she was really for good governance, why did she appoint him when he took many tracts of land for himself and allowed the PDDP to be implemented here?" Usi said of Dr. Epifanio Lacap, former mayor of Masantol and now health undersecretary.

For instance, Usi's 2.7 hectares at the PDDP's high water channel (HWC), or the buffet zone of the flood-control dike, were taken and developed into fishponds allegedly by Lacap through his aides Arnold Ignacio and Edo Guevarra.

There were 300 cases as Usi's although a 1996 memorandum from the Department of Public Works and Highways, which is implementing the PDDP, allotted the lands on the channel, which spans 15 km on each bank, to displaced families, according to the Masantol Farmers Development Cooperative (MAFADECO).

Lacap and his wife Masantol Mayor Corazon Lacap had used political supporters and relatives as dummies, MAFADECO said in court affidavits and reports given to the congressional committee on agriculture.

The Lacaps have been charged with graft and corruption before the Sandiganbayan. This after Ombudsman Aniano Disierto last March found probable cause to pursue the charges filed by displaced residents and fishermen.

Dr. Lacap, in recent interviews with the INQUIRER, denied the allegation of land grabbing.

He justified the distribution of HWC leases to former civilian volunteers like Ignacio and Guevarra, saying these were "rewards for their counter-insurgency efforts against communist rebels."

He declined to say how many people he had rewarded with HWC leases.

Dr. Lacap, speaking last July to the INQUIRER, flaunted his closeness to Ms Macapagal. Farmers said they have heard the Lacaps boast of the same whenever confronted by complaints of land grabbing.

Last June, the fisher folk had tried to block Lacap's appointment through a letter to then Executive Secretary Renato de Villa.

Pampanga Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc also asked Malacañang to heed the appeal of his constituents.

All the efforts failed, according to Vice Mayor Marcelo Lacap Jr.

"We have tried everything. We have protested. We have gone to the courts, to Malacañang. I don't know if the President even heard of our problems," Usi said.

The town had lost nearly P20 million in revenue from palay farming and prawn culture in the last eight years when the PDDP dredged 1,000 hectares.

Millions more in foregone income had been lost because displaced families could not claim the land in the high water channel for cultivation during dry months, Vice Mayor Lacap said.

Usi is more worried. In his village Bagabag, the Lacaps last month rented out seven hectares to one Cesar Bautista for prawn farming.

"Dr. Lacap is more powerful now because he's an appointee of the President. We have nothing except unity and courage, and some local officials on our side. But these are not enough. Look, we have been fighting in the last eight years. I might die not seeing these problems solved," Usi said.

NOTICE OF 48-HR WATER SERVICE INTERRUPTION

Maynilad Water Service Inc. wishes to inform the public that it has scheduled a 48-hour water service interruption-

- **From 10:00 p.m., Friday, August 24 to 10:00 p.m., Sunday, August 26, 2001**
- **In the whole of Las Piñas and**
- **Parts of Pasay and Parañaque Cities and Bacoor, Cavite**

The water service interruption will pave the way for seven interconnections of newly-laid pipes in the cities of Pasay and Parañaque:

Interconnection	Location	Contractor	Benefits
No. 1	Roxas Blvd. near cor. Redemptorist Rd. Pasay City	J. V. Angeles Construction Corporation	Preparation for future energization of new pipeline/ to allow road restoration
No. 2	Roxas Blvd. near cor. Redemptorist Rd. Pasay City	J. V. Angeles Construction Corporation	Preparation for future energization/ to allow road restoration
No. 3	Roxas Blvd. near Rivera St. Pasay City	J. V. Angeles Construction Corporation	Preparation for future energization
No. 4	Roxas Blvd. near Airport Road, Parañaque	J. V. Angeles Construction Corporation	Preparation for future energization
No. 5	Coastal Road. nr. MIA Rd., Pque.	R.D. Policarpio Construction	Better water circulation
No. 6	Along Coastal Rd., south of bridge, Parañaque	China Geo Construction Corporation	Better water circulation
No. 7	Along Sucat Rd. cor. Schilling St., Villanueva Subd. Parañaque	Makati Development Corporation	Future energization of new pipelines at Villanueva Subd. and Multi-national Village

Areas affected are:

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  2. Parts of Pasay City (along MIA Road, Pildera I and II, and Rivera Village).
  3. Parts of Parañaque City (Barangays Baclaran, Tambo, Don Galo, La Huerta, Sto. Niño, San Dionisio, San Isidro and Vitalez, lower portion of San Antonio Valley, El Grande Ave. at BF Homes, along Ninoy Aquino Ave., Sun Valley and Casino Filipino).
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More cops wanted in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte vowed to make this city the "most peaceful in the country" before the year ends.

But Duterte said he could only do this if he would be given 700 additional policemen in his crackdown against crime and drugs.

"More warm bodies to pound the streets and respond to emergencies. More equipment to beef up police operations," Duterte said.

Observers say the vision is not far-fetched. This early, Duterte's strong partnership with the police has been paying off with a sharp decline in the city's crime rate, according to Davao City Police Office (DCPO) director Senior Supt. Wilfredo Garcia.

Garcia said the Davao police is now ranked No. 1 by Camp Crame based on its mid-year performance.

Garcia said the city police's efficiency is rated at about 95 percent, which is higher than that of other police offices in the country.

But Duterte said the anti-drugs campaign could not be done by the city government or the police alone. He said there must be close coordination and cooperation between the government and the people in the community. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ifugao folk, execs seek better deals for rice terraces

BAGUIO CITY—Ifugao officials are reviewing the terms negotiated by the government when the province's world-famous rice terraces were listed in 1998 as a protected World Heritage site.

Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao said provincial leaders might opt for a new "grassroots-initiated" program under the World Heritage jurisdiction, which would be suited to communities there.

Chungalao said he would sponsor a measure seeking to "correct" and "improve" the old tourism program initiated by the government in 1995.

That program included a plan to camouflage houses found along the tourist-frequented rice terraces by painting their roofs green or brown.

The World Heritage label benefited politicians, not the Ifugao towns, after the century-old wonders were endorsed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) as a World Heritage site, Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. earlier told the INQUIRER.

Despite the international recognition, the towns of Banaue, Hungduan and Mayoyao, which host these terraces, remain fifth and sixth class municipalities, Baguilat said.

Two Filipino artists are supporting the "reinvention" of the century-old artifacts.

Filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik and lensman Tommy Hafalla spent a month last year documenting the extinction of rice terraces in Japan, due to globalization.

"It gave us a chilling forecast of what can happen to Ifugao," Hafalla said.

Hafalla and Kidlat toured the last *tanada* (rice terraces or literally Japanese for layers) of Matsunnoyama village in Niigata, 300 km west of Tokyo, in October 2000.

Many of these terraces were subsidized by the Japanese government, because they grow the very marketable Niigata rice.

But Tokyo started to withdraw funding for many terraces, which could not keep up with world demands for Niigata rice.

Hafalla said they photographed and videotaped the last harvest of a *tanada* owned by a 70-year-old farmer.

Chungalao also mulled legislating government subsidies for commercial Ifugao rice varieties, which used to be grown on the terraces.

But he said Ifugao leaders were more interested in assessing the economic consequences of Banaue being a World Heritage site.

"The World Heritage people had been accommodating and very helpful. But the problem here lies with our own government. They could not offer the demanded counterpart funds to help boost and protect the terraces. The local governments (of Ifugao) were being pressured to come up with their own counterpart, when they knew very well these towns had no income," Chungalao said.

He said his measure would demand an audit of funds used in the name of the rice terraces, "to determine whether (the) government had misused these."

"It is important for Ifugao that the government be as (transparent) as possible about its dealings on behalf of the terraces because the residents never knew what was going on," he said.

The audit will include the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force, its predecessor the Ifugao Terraces Commission and the Department of Tourism. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao
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Future still bleak for Muslim autonomy

BY FR. ELISEO R. MERCADO JR.

WHAT'S the future of the regional autonomy in Muslim Mindanao after the Aug. 14 plebiscite?

The new Organic Act or Republic Act No. 9054 has been "ratified" in the four existing Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao provinces (they really got not choice). The province of Basilan and the city of Marawi voted to be included in the expanded autonomy and are the new additions to the present ARMM coverage of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

If RA 9054 and the very contentious plebiscite were the measures of things to come, the future looks bleak, not only for the new ARMM but for the whole Southern Philippines as well.

COMMENTARY

To begin with, the so-called expanded ARMM is really more of rhetoric than substance. Marawi is a component city of Lanao del Sur. Since the creation of the ARMM in 1989, Marawi has been a *de facto* (not *de jure*) part of the ARMM. So in real terms, the inclusion of Marawi makes a mockery of the word "expansion."

On the other hand, the island-province of Basilan completes the picture of the chain of island-provinces where the Muslims are the majority population.

Second, the unilateral imposition of the government in the actual legislation of the pertinent provisions of the 1996 Final Peace Accord between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) tells it all on the kind and degree of autonomy that it is willing to give to the Southern Philippines.

Third, the non-participation of the MNLF and its allies in the plebiscite and its marginalization in the implementation of the 1996 peace accord is a prelude to its withdrawal from that agreement. It is now a matter of time when this break will happen.

Finding a scapegoat

The lack of accomplishments in both the ARMM and the Special Zone of Peace and Development (Szopad) under the MNLF with Misuari as governor and Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) chair is now the reason being cited for the "debacle" of the SPCPD and the ARMM.

This also explains why the government has taken the side of the so-called Executive Council of the 15 in lieu of Chair Misuari.

The government's desire for genuine development to take off is one of the many reasons for the present "choice" of its new partners in the Southern Philippines. The bottom line, it seems, is to get rid of Misuari and hitch a new "horse" to deliver the desired development in the Southern Philippines.

The Executive Council of the 15, composed of what Misuari labeled MNLF "renegades," has become the new government partner in the Southern Philippines.

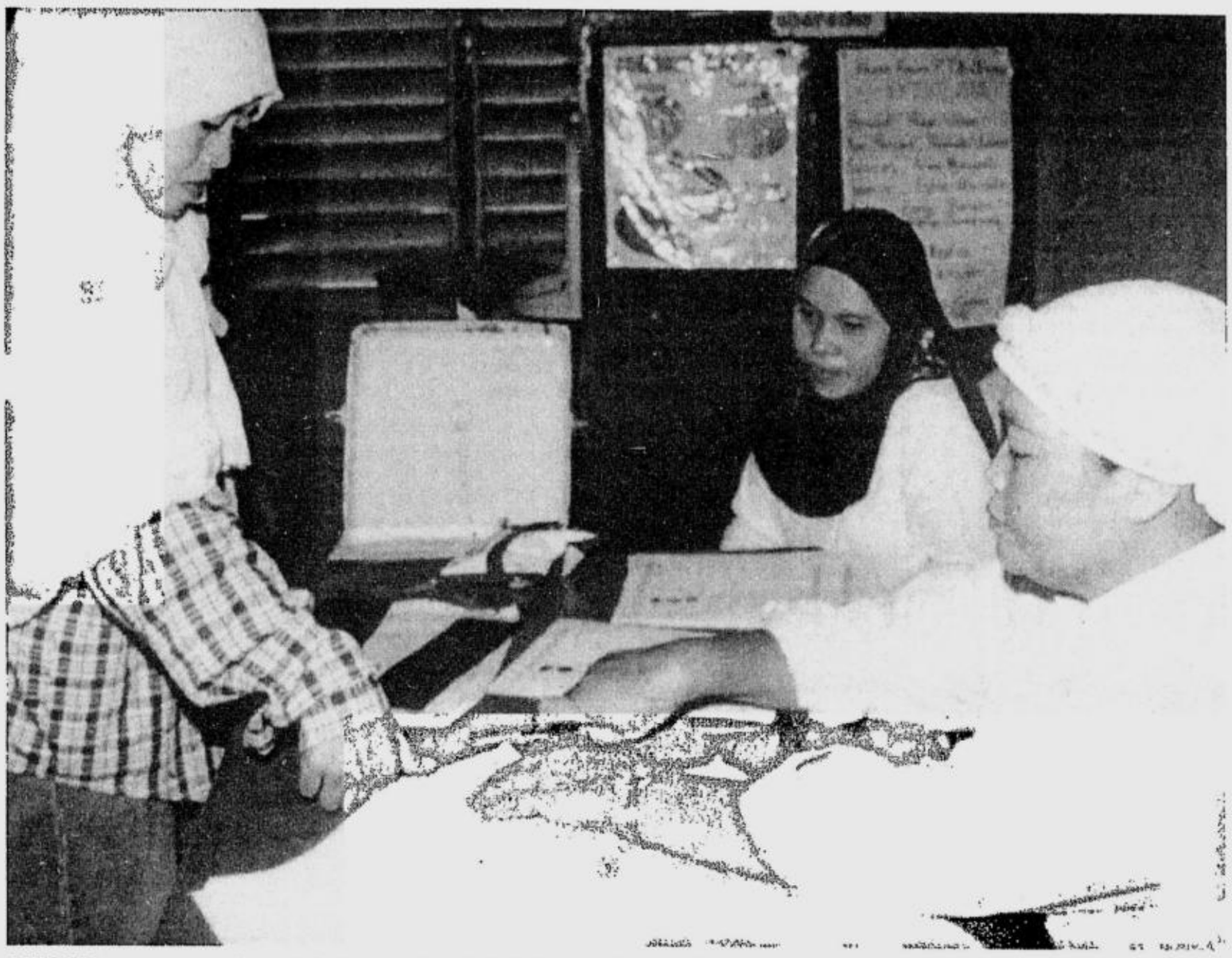
In this regard, the Bangsamoro people see the direct intervention of the government in the creation of the Executive Council through Norberto Gonzales, chair of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas and presidential adviser for special concerns. There seems to be a basis in the MNLF's accusation that the government is again adopting a policy of divide-and-rule vis-à-vis the Bangsamoro issues and autonomy.

Plebiscite

The Aug. 14 plebiscite, aimed at defining the coverage of the Muslim autonomy, was held against the backdrop of confusing signals never before seen.

First, it was ***not*** on the new law, RA 9054, but on the inclusion or exclusion of certain provinces and cities in the expanded areas of autonomy as provided for in the new law.

Second, the law itself is being sullied as a violation of the 1996 Peace Agreement between the GRP and the MNLF. The agreement is a political settlement and all its pertinent provisions must be legislated into the new law without any addition or deletion.



A MUSLIM woman gets ready to vote in the Aug. 14 plebiscite in Barangay Sta. Catalina in Zamboanga City. CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

In short, the new law must faithfully adhere to the agreement, in both letter and spirit.

Third, the plebiscite was conducted despite the objection of the MNLF and the Organization of the Islamic Countries (OIC) on the ground of its unilateral imposition on the parties to the agreement. Both Misuari and the OIC had continuously appealed to the GRP to refrain from conducting a unilateral plebiscite.

The OIC, in its resolutions in September 2000 in Kuala Lumpur and on June 27, 2001 in Bamako, requested the Philippine government to postpone the plebiscite to 2002 and the elections in the new areas covered by autonomy to 2003.

The MNLF and the OIC believe that since the GRP failed to meet the time-frame for the implementation of Phase 2 of the agreement, the two parties (the GRP and the MNLF), under the auspices of the OIC, should sit and discuss a new time-frame for the accord's full implementation.

In the four provinces of the ARMM, the voters were asked to ratify RA 9054. The "Yes" votes prevailed; thus, RA 9054 becomes the new Organic Law that shall govern the ARMM. Only one (Basilan) of the nine provinces outside of the ARMM voted for inclusion into the expanded region. Of the 15 cities, only Marawi voted for inclusion.

In all Christian-dominated provinces and cities, the residents voted a resounding "No."

Cotabato City, who has a small Muslim majority, voted to be excluded despite the campaigns of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Mayor Muslimin Sema, who represented the Executive Council of the 15 that chose to support the new autonomy law and the plebiscite.

Aftermath

The non-recognition of Misuari and his MNLF bloc, especially if supported by the OIC, would make the Muslim autonomy tentative despite its permanence under RA 9054.

The ARMM elections under the new Organic Law will be held in November 2001.

After the organization of the regular ARMM, the transitory period would cease. In fact, this period remains only in the ARMM provinces and cities after the plebiscite.

But can Misuari be so easily swept aside? He claims that his is the only MNLF recognized by the OIC as the "sole and legitimate representative of the Bangsamoro people." The 15-member Executive Council that has retired him as "chairman emeritus" is a breakaway faction that has no wider constituency within the Bangsamoro.

MNLF rejection

In 1977, the MNLF rejected Presidential Decree No. 1618, which created the two-region autonomous government under then President Ferdinand Marcos. The decree, Misuari then said, violated the 1976 Tripoli Agreement.

In 1989, the MNLF also rejected RA 6734 creating the ARMM under the Aquino administration. The MNLF, Misuari had said, did not participate in the crafting of the Organic Act. The creation of the ARMM was not in accordance with the Tripoli Agreement.

In both PD 1618 and RA 6734, Misuari's objections were fully supported by the OIC that annually issued resolutions urging the Philippine government to fully implement the Tripoli Agreement.

The 1996 Peace Agreement "is the full implementation of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement," states Paragraph 153 of the agreement. The legislation of the agreement as contained in RA 9054 was rejected for the third time by the MNLF for ***not*** adhering to the provisions of the 1996 Peace Accord.

Will the MNLF position enjoy the full support of the OIC, notwithstanding the support by the 15-member Executive Council to the new law and the Aug. 14 Plebiscite? We shall now wait for the position of the OIC, which is very crucial to the future of the new ARMM.

The Macapagal administration may have overplayed its options to oust Misuari from power through the Executive Council of the 15 and to remove him as SPCPD chair before Aug. 14.

Removing Misuari from the MNLF and the SPCPD, while not easy, may succeed with the support of the OIC. But lacking OIC support, the whole array of exercises, that is, the legislation, the plebiscite and the removal of Misuari from the SPCPD, would have been done in futility.

Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado, Jr. OMI, is president of the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. He went on leave as chair of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections in Central Mindanao during the ARMM plebiscite.

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'Lord, save us'

(From page A1)

short circuit, officials said.

Arson investigators are looking into reports that the hotel tapped its electricity from another building at the back of the Manor, said Senior Supt. Jacinto Diquiatco, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) northern fire district director.

Initial reports showed the fire was caused by "overheating" of the air-conditioning system, according to a police spokesperson.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte said the fire most probably started near a restaurant and karaoke bar on the third floor of the hotel, possibly in its kitchen.

From the outside, Manor hotel did not even appear to be damaged. The flames did not spread very far, but thick columns of smoke did.

Only the interior of the third and fourth floors were clearly ravaged by the flames but on the upper floors that were untouched by the fire, dead bodies were found lying in hallways and hotel rooms.

At the height of the tragedy, fire fighters waged an uphill battle trying to rescue hotel guests trapped in their rooms by iron bars on the windows and balconies.

"It was a very depressing scene, especially it was sad to see the victims just helpless," Johnny Yu, Metro Manila director for civil defense, told Agence France Presse.

GMA visits

President Macapagal-Arroyo visited survivors in one hospital, then tried to console relatives of victims.

"She told me that I can be assured of assistance from the government, but she did not specify what help," said Purita Legazpi, whose cousin died in the fire.

A total of 75 people, including three children, were confirmed dead as of noon yesterday. Sixty-two bodies were brought to Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village, Quezon City. The others were in hospitals, police said.

All information on the casualties will be compiled at the camp, officials said.

The BFP said 41 of the injured were brought to the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC), Quirino Labor Hospital, the Lung Center, the V. Luna Medical Center, and the Quezon City Medical Center.

Danilo Cabrera of the Bureau of Fire Protection said some victims may have been double-counted in the initial confusion.

Several Americans came for the evangelical conference, but it appeared that no foreigners were among the casualties.

Police lined up 66 bodies in four rows at a nearby basketball court, covered them with straw mats, took fingerprints and put them in body bags after they were identified, aided by the conference badges that some wore.

The hotel's garage was turned into an impromptu morgue as the bodies from the hotel were taken out and lined in rows for identification.

Paramedics used artificial respiration and cardiopulmonary resuscitation to try to revive some of those taken out but without success.

Warning shots

Elmerio Pimentel, a 26-year-old security guard in an adjacent building, said he saw smoke coming from an exhaust fan at 3:50 a.m. and fired three warning shots, then heard what sounded like an explosion.

"The security guard fired warning shots but people apparently didn't hear it because of the air-conditioning," Mayor Belmonte told Reuters.

Nivart Ulayo, a volunteer firefighter, said he arrived at 4:30 a.m. and the building was already engulfed in smoke, with victims screaming from the rooms where they were trapped.

Firemen used circular saws to cut through some of the bars and succeeded in rescuing a few people out through the windows and onto elevated ladders on the fire engines.

"We saw a lot of dead in bathrooms," Diquiatco said. "One submerged his face in a toilet bowl."

Belmonte said the first two floors of the hotel were used as offices. He said firefighters were unable to immediately search one floor for bodies because the fire badly weakened the structure. Soldiers were brought in later to help.

The blaze was extinguished around 6:30 a.m., firefighters said.

Hours after the fire was under control, firemen were still pulling dead bodies out of the building. On the fifth floor, two bodies were lying in a hallway, apparently choked by the fumes.

The bodies of a man and his wife were found huddled in a bathroom on the sixth floor. "Let's try to revive these two," a paramedic was heard saying as the couple were taken down.

Associated Press photographer Pat Roque said mattresses covered the floors of rooms on the third floor, indicating many people had been jampacked into each room.

Reports of the number of registered guests varied from 195 to 236. Rooms went for about P1,000 per night, but some guests said they spent as little as P300 for a bed. ***Reports from Philip Tubeza, AFP, AP, Reuters***

Identified victims at Camp Karingal as of 5 p.m., yesterday

1. Agustin, Elizabeth
2. Agustin, Kristina
3. Agustin, Renato
4. Albano, Marciano
5. Andrade, Gregorio
6. Baguio, Rudy
7. Barcelona, Richard
8. Brecia, Norman
9. Cas, Jonathan
10. Castillo, Librada
11. De Castro, Eugene
12. De los Reyes, Ernie
13. Fabelico, Cesar
14. Fabelico, Patrol
15. Falaminiano, Mary Ann
16. Galea, Myrna Rio
17. Galla, Silverstre
18. Jamoles, Bishop
19. Javier, Leony
20. Junio, Gloria
21. Lacanilao, Oliver
22. Lambit Child
23. Lambit Child
24. Lambit, Linda
25. Leguardia, Pedro
26. Madlambayan, Liza
27. Mangacu, Elizabeth
28. Mangacu, Elmer
29. Mangsilogen, Ireneo
30. Marigundon, Jose Aldrin
31. Masilangan, Susan
32. Mojica, Aida
33. Mojica, Ed
34. Olilas, Jesusa
35. Patio, Allyn
36. Patio, Joel
37. Sagaoinit, Elpidio
38. Sagaoinit, Jordan
39. Sangkal, Jun (Pastor)
40. Sarmiento, Amado Jr.
41. Sarmiento, Sonia
42. Sebastian, Diane Carol
43. Sebastian, Gregorio
44. Tabunda, Marjorie
45. Tanteo, Ofelia
46. Tayag, Wilma
47. Vecina, Jocelyn
48. Vecina, Samuel
49. Villamar, Rogelio

'They did not leave anyone for me'

(From page A1)

comfort her and give her a change of clothes.

"Before she left us, Bon prayed with us and gave thanks. I told her that it was all right since we should always help those in need," Falo said.

But prayers of thanksgiving mixed with prayers for the dead yesterday after fire ravaged the Quezon City Manor Hotel packed with people attending the evangelical "Destiny Conference."

Nearby residents heard cries for help as the two-hour blaze began to engulf the hotel's third floor before dawn.

They watched helplessly in horror while the victims gripped the window grilles of the six-story building, or simply jumped to their death.

Witness Willie L. Gatchalian saw a man trying to escape through the window of his room on the fourth floor. The man had apparently sawn off a portion of the iron bars on the window.

To Gatchalian's horror, the victim jumped out of the window and crashed on the concrete pavement below, cracking his skull.

"I then saw a woman trying to hold on to the iron grilles of her window on the fifth floor. But she was not able to hold on and she also fell and died," he said.

Gatchalian said he saw four other people fall to their death before firemen arrived.

The only survivor he saw was a woman who was able to climb down using sheets tied together.

He said one woman on the street who had escaped from the fire was hysterical. "She was shouting hallelujah repeatedly while she stared at the building," he said.

'No one left'

Eleanor Scoffield began shrieking when she spotted the bodies of her boyfriend and her 17-year-old daughter after earlier finding the body of her 7-year-old son at a hospital.

They had been staying at the hotel while she was out of town, and she rushed back after hearing of the fire.

"Lord, Lord, they did not leave anyone for me," she cried. "I was hoping to see them alive, but they are all dead."

Jesus is Lord (JIL) member Ali Briones, 23, of Mexico, Pampanga, said he and his six roommates were sound asleep in Room 304 of the hotel when they were awakened by noise around 4 a.m.

When he opened the door, flames and suffocating black smoke greeted him. He ran to the fire exit, but several pieces of wood blocked the way.

Briones returned to his room and he and his roommates removed the air-con unit. But to their dismay, iron grilles blocked their escape.

Second life

They soaked their clothes with water, then rushed out of their room into the burning and smoke-filled corridor.

Briones found an open window and jumped out. Three of his companions did not get out alive. Later, he hitched a ride to Camp Karingal, where he identified his three dead roommates.

At the camp, Briones recounted to President Macapagal-Arroyo his ordeal.

"We thought we were going to die if we got out (of the room). We wanted to leave the room but the fire was getting big. So we retreated. We panicked," he told the President.

"Thank God you survived. This is your second life," the President told Briones at the covered court of the camp, where body bags containing the remains of victims were laid out.

Drink of water

Her lungs burning from smoke, Daisy Toledo, 21, spoke in a whisper from her hospital bed as she described being one of the lucky ones. She had woken in the middle of the night to get a drink of water from the bathroom outside her room.

"That saved my life," she said, explaining the fire would have trapped her if she had still been in bed. Instead, firefighters were able to cut the bars from the bathroom window and pull her to safety, as they did with 17 other people.

Eugene Schwebler, 60, from Wisconsin, said he tried to flee his fourth-floor room but heat turned him back. He pulled the air-conditioner out of the wall for access to the fire escape.

"I don't know how many came out," he said, holding a candle as he returned to get his belongings. "The lights went out and we heard people screaming."

Screaming

Gatchalian, 38, a junk shop helper, was one of the first neighbors to rush to the hotel along Kamias Road after he heard the victims crying for help.

"I was awake then and I heard these cries and so I rushed out. I saw this thick smoke coming out of the building while the victims were screaming through the windows," he said.

Contradicting the report of arson investigators that the fire began around 4 a.m., Gatchalian, whose junk shop is across the road from the hotel, said the fire started past 2 a.m. He claimed firemen arrived an hour after the blaze broke out.

He said he immediately went to the hotel. But when he reached the information desk on the ground floor, no one was there.

He went to the back of the Manor and he saw a security guard get off a truck. The guard then fired shots in the air to warn hotel guests that there was a fire.

"I got frightened when the guard fired his gun and so I ran outside," Gatchalian said, adding that he heard four explosions as he ran.

Prayer meeting

After two days of rousing prayer meetings at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, dozens of followers of Texas preacher Don Clowers were killed, mostly trapped between searing, smoky hallways and windows covered with anti-burglar bars.

"We were all so shocked," said Eugene Pir, a Filipino pastor who attended Clowers' prayer meetings yesterday along with about 8,000 others. The three-day conference was scheduled to end yesterday.

"Everyone here is praying regularly."

The attendees, mostly poor, rural Filipinos from thousands of churches who traveled from around the nation to see Clowers preach, waved their arms in the air and sang hymns in the aftermath of the tragedy.

The air on stage, at the center of the rising banks of chairs in the circular hall, was still one of festive worship. Crooning singers and loud shouts of prayer followed an energetic dance troupe under stage lights.

But most on the floor clamored for news of their dead friends and their families.

Donations

"I would do whatever I could to help them now," said Elaine Perez, a 26-year-old worshipper from the northern Philippines.

Clowers, of the Irving, Texas-based Don Clowers Ministries, told the delegates he was praying for the dead and their families.

"The people that left us are now in the presence of Jesus Christ our Lord," Clowers said, prompting a loud cheer from the three-quarters full concert hall. "None of us could prevent this terrible tragedy."

He urged the worshippers to make "sacrificial donations" to his church and said he would cover unspecified expenses of the victims' families.

"I don't know what the expense is, but it could be a high bill," he said from the stage, adding that attendees should think of the dead as they donate. "God wants us to show our compassion and our love for them." ***With reports from Juliet Javellana, AP, AFP, Reuters***

3 witnesses now scared to testify

(From page A1)

He said it appeared that People Power I and II were mere "preliminaries" as the problem plaguing the country was deeply rooted.

"Now that we know the root cause of all social and political ills in this country, we might as well do something about it and stop the problem as soon as possible," he added.

Myrna Gojar of Kompil II said members of Katotohanan would assemble at the Senate on Tuesday to show public support for Corpus' cause in exposing the "root cause" of the problem.

Lawyers belonging to Mawanay's legal support group said his detention, as ordered by the Senate blue ribbon, public order and national defense committees, had produced a chilling effect on other witnesses.

According to Argee Guevarra, the senators are "penalizing people who are willing to testify."

Leonard de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement (E-Just) said the senators should have taken Mawanay's charges against Senators Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro "in the context of a hearing that was called to investigate" Lacson.

"This is precedent-setting . . . unheard of in our jurisprudence. This is a scary situation," De Vera said.

He added: "The lesson here is never to appear in Senate hearings because if you accuse any of them of something, you will be detained until the investigation is completed."

Mawanay was declared in contempt and ordered detained by the senators following his allegation that he delivered 1,000 smuggled cell phones worth P8.9 million to Legarda.

They said he would be held in detention until he had produced the necessary papers to back his claim.

Legarda denied Mawanay's allegation. She and the other senators spent much of the seven-hour hearing interrogating him on the issue of the cell phones.

Corpus was unable to present witnesses and evidence in support of his claim that Lacson was involved in such crimes as drug trafficking, money laundering, kidnapping for ransom and murder.

Courtesy

Father Caluag said the senators should have accorded Corpus and Mawanay a "little courtesy."

"(They) went to the Senate because they had been invited, and yet they turned out as the accused being grilled by the senators," the priest said. "Let us not allow the Senate to lose its focus. The focus here is Lacson's alleged drug trafficking and criminal acts in cahoots with the Chinese triad. Let the people know the truth. Let us all get to the core of the problem."

Dante Jimenez of the VACC said the three new witnesses were to testify that Lacson used helicopters in his alleged trade in illegal drugs.

"Lacson and his men, in the guise of police officers on a mission in Mindanao, were using choppers to drop the goods, *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrchloride)," Jimenez said, adding:

"At first, the witnesses wanted to come to Manila to testify. Now they have backed out. We hope we can still convince them to come out. The senators are definitely sending a wrong signal to potential witnesses."

But Legarda said in a phone interview: "We did not send (Mawanay) to jail. The proposition was to detain him until such a time that he could come up with the documentary evidence to substantiate his allegations."

In a statement, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the three Senate committees' order "to place (Mawanay) under the chamber's temporary custody" was intended to "compel him to produce evidence on his accusations of wrongdoing" against Legarda and De Castro and to "resolve the issue expeditiously."

Mawanay said at the hearing that he had handed grease money to De Castro and two colleagues in the ABS-CBN network.

Pimentel said the detention would ensure Mawanay's presence at the succeeding hearings.

In a phone interview, Senate President Franklin Drilon said that "under Senate rules, a witness can't be detained just because he refused to retract a statement."

"Senate rules say only witnesses who refuse to answer questions or to provide documents necessary for the investigation are detained," Drilon said.

But he added that he was not very familiar with Mawanay's case, and that he was speaking only in general terms.

Integrity

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said she was "very happy" about Corpus' performance at the hearing.

"From the (TV) replays, she feels that the grilling of Colonel Corpus by the Senate shows without a doubt that this officer's integrity is impeccable," Tiglao told reporters.

"The President was very happy that Colonel Corpus projected himself as a crusader who has no (personal) agenda. He is just doing his best," he said.

Tiglao expressed the hope that the Senate could now concentrate on the substance of Corpus' case against Lacson.

"We cannot interfere with the Senate, but we're hoping that after the first hearing, the senators could focus on the credibility of Colonel Corpus. We hope they could start looking into (his) allegation, which is the substance of this entire issue," he said.

But Legarda said he would deliver a speech on Mawanay's allegation that she had ordered the cell phones by fax and purchased these from him.

"I dare him to reveal the witness. It is easy to pick a paid hack and say he received a faxed message. Anybody can come up with a copy of a faxed message," she said, adding:

"I will deliver a speech on this on Monday. I'll also bring this all to court. I'm an elected senator and he's a criminal. He'll continue to whip out any tale."

Mawanay quickly took up Legarda's challenge.

He told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he would present the person who allegedly helped set up the cell phone deal, and that he was preparing a paper where he would expose the criminal activities of other government officials.

But he clarified that he was not out to destroy the senator, and noted that she herself raised the issue at the hearing.

E-Just's De Vera, however, pointed out that the Senate was a forum for people to air grievances and not a court where proof had to be immediately presented.

Doubts

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan raised serious doubts on the capacity of the Senate to investigate the charges against Lacson.

"Our senators have turned into paranoid politicians out to save their own skins. They should have focused on the facts instead of the motives of the whistleblowers. But they were so afraid of what could come out that they took so much effort to discredit the witnesses" said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño.

"If that's how they treat the issue, then they better stop it. Perhaps it would be better for the Department of Justice and the Ombudsman to look into the charges," he said. ***With reports from Juliet L. Javellana, Norman Bordadora, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

Lacson complains of double standard

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday complained that a "double standard" prevailed at the Senate hearing Friday on his alleged money laundering and other illegal activities.

Lacson pointed out that the senators were outraged when Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, claimed that he delivered P8.9 million worth of smuggled cellular phones to Sen. Loren Legarda in 1998.

And yet, he said, they treated Mawanay like a credible witness when the ex-agent earlier leveled serious charges at him and Sen. Vicente Sotto.

"When an administration senator was being accused, they all pitched in until they had Ador detained," Lacson said in Filipino over radio dyLA.

Lacson said the senators were able to confirm that Mawanay was not a credible witness.

"But even after they had established (this) because of the cell phone issue, they still went ahead with his narration ... because they were talking about me again," Lacson said.

The senator said that while his colleagues had a basis to order Mawanay detained, they displayed the same "double standard" when they did not do likewise to military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus.

"I am just wondering why they did not detain Colonel Corpus. He was evasive in answering the questions, and he could also have been cited for contempt," Lacson said.

What went wrong?

(From page A1)

full year ago, turned the hotel yesterday into a deathtrap.

Fire officials are looking for the hotel owner, businessman William Henato, who allegedly refused to talk to investigators.

Senior Supt. Romeo Villafuerte of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) said his men found that two of the hotel's fire exits were locked and the building had no alarm system, no emergency lights and no sprinkler system. They also found several pieces of wood "obstructing" the fire exits on each floor.

Villafuerte said that an August 2000 report already showed that the hotel had "no automatic fire suppression system, inadequate portable fire extinguishers, no smoke and heat detectors, defective manual fire alarm system, inadequate secondary stair/fire exit, obstructed route of fire exit, and a defective standpipe system."

Marshal sacked

Quezon City Fire Marshal Ricardo Lemence said that an inspection two months ago found that the hotel continued to violate certain safety regulations. The owners were given up to 30 days to comply, but Lemence did not say whether the owners took the necessary measures.

But Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte said the BFP itself could have been remiss in its duties.

"Maybe the fire department did not really seriously carry out its duty. Otherwise, the deficiencies it cited in its notice could have been corrected," the mayor told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina sacked Lemence shortly after the fire.

Belmonte said he would not hesitate to fire City Engineer Alfredo Macapugay if an investigation showed that he was negligent.

Macapugay was already the city engineer when two other conflagrations occurred in Quezon City: the Ozone Disco fire in 1996 which killed 162 people and injured 112 others, and the Lung Center fire in 1999 where more than 20 people died.

Sacrificial lamb

But yesterday the Manila-based United Firefighters Association of the Philippines, through spokesperson Alvin Estrada, said they were "appalled by the apparent 'knee-jerk reaction' of government officials who, in order to project a semblance of decisiveness, had to relieve a 'sacrificial lamb'" in the person of Lemence.

Estrada said Lemence's superior, Villafuerte, should be held equally responsible because he knew, from Lemence's report dated Aug. 11, 2000, that the hotel had committed 11 violations of the fire safety code.

In a subsequent letter to Candelaria Arañador, the hotel manager, Lemence narrowed the violations to seven, and gave the hotel 60 days to "correct defects." The hotel was given 24 hours, however, to clear the "obstructed route of fire exit."

However, Villafuerte said he did not know if the hotel management was able to remedy the defects because the fire marshal's office did not submit a follow-up report.

He said the hotel would have needed a fire safety inspection certificate for the city government to issue its business license, which is renewed every January.

Iron bars

The concrete building was apparently built in the late 1970s and may have been damaged by fire before, according to local officials. They said it was apparently not designed as a hotel. There were no windows on the rear, and the building had some permanent occupants.

The ornate white iron bars that prevented hotel guests from escaping through the windows are a common anti-burglar device.

"Without a doubt there would have been more people rescued if there had been no iron grilles on the windows," Belmonte said. "There were people hanging out on the windows crying out to be rescued."

"We went to the front (lobby) but there was no fire exit. There should be a fire exit," one man who survived the fire told reporters.

Fire Inspector Ricardo Clemente said the hotel clearly had "inadequate" emergency lights.

Files secured

Belmonte said he had ordered the city council to conduct "a truly exhaustive and impartial investigation that will be credible to the public and to the people affected by the fire."

"We promise that this would not be another Ozone. We will definitely get to the bottom of this and those found remiss in their duties will have to be made answerable for their actions," he said.

Belmonte ordered the Central Police District to secure all offices, which holds vital information regarding Manor Hotel, including the local BFP office, the city engineers office and the business permits office.

He said policemen were already dispatched to the said offices to ensure that all documents and pertinent evidence were intact.

At the scene, President Macapagal-Arroyo called for an investigation of the cause of the fire and ordered the local government to coordinate with the social welfare department to assist the victims. ***With reports from Reuters, AFP and AP***

Scooter series 4th round unfolds

THE NATIONAL Racing Association will hold the fourth round of the Maxi Scooter Series today at the Batangas Racing Circuit with Carlo Yalo of Exact and Robbie Inigo of Team 2211-Castrol hoping to keep the lead in their respective categories.

Both Yalo and Inigo are nursing a precarious lead in the automatic and geared categories after three rounds in this five-part series sponsored by Elf Lubricants.

Yalo swept the first two rounds but dropped out of the running in the third round along with race favorite Miguel Bichara of Team Elf-Malossi on July 15.

That allowed defending champion Jeffrey Ballesteros of Pro Scoot and Randy Ortiz of R.C. Car Exchange to finish 1-2 in the race and tighten the battle in the overall standings in the automatic category.

Overall, Yalo has a three-leg aggregate of 50 points against Ballesteros' 48 points and Bichara's 46 points.

Ritchie Abrina and Ricky Montelibano are running fourth and fifth with 30 and 26 points, respectively.

Also expected to make their presence felt anew are Mackoy Allanon and Ali Cornish, who came in fourth and fifth last month despite some early difficulties.

SEAG PREVIEW

Slim chance for RP shuttlers

N. ASUNCION

BY DENNIS EROA

DON"T expect the two-man Philippine team to figure prominently in the medal race come the 21st SEA Games slated Sept. 8-17 in Malaysia.

Reason: siblings Kennievic and Kennie are up against the world's leading shuttlecock artists. The Asuncions will see action in mixed doubles, men's and women's singles.

"SEA Games is the Olympics of badminton," longtime national badminton coach Nelson Asuncion told the INQUIRER.

The Asuncions are presently training in Fuzhou, China under legendary coaches Lin Feng Yu and Yu Ho Rong. The elder Asuncion admitted that the one-month training isn't enough to enable them to give the world-ranked Indonesian and Malaysian bets a run for their money.

The legendary Taufik Hidayat, Tony Gunawam, Halim Heryanto, Atu Rosalina and Ellen Angelina will banner Indonesia's bid. Gunawan and Heryanto won the doubles gold in the Sydney Olympics, while Hidayat is reigning Asian men's singles champion.

Others in the Indon roster are Bambang Suprianto, Minarti Timur and Budi Santoso, conquerors of defending champion Peter Gade Christensen of Denmark in the recent World Badminton Grand Prix.

Asuncion said winning a bronze is already considered a bonus for the lean Philippine team. "I hope that we'll have a good draw," he said.

The country jubilated when Amparo "Weena" Lim, now PSC Commissioner, qualified for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Lim with Kennie also recorded the country's best finish in the biennial Games when they won the bronze in women's doubles during the 1997 Jakarta SEAG.

Motorsports resume at BRC

4WD CHAMP

Paolo Alabado is shown after receiving the champion's prize and medal in the Jomari Yllana Mini 4WD Challenge 2001 recently. The event was made possible in cooperation with Bench, Norkis Yamaha, Robinson Place Manila, Channel V, Joey 92.3 FM, and KC 939 FM. It was Organized by Tom's Sports International Corp.

TWO of the premier motorsports competitions in the country—the Asian Formula 3 Challenge and Formula Toyota Cup—resume today with Jojo Silverio of Standard Insurance-KACE-Team Tom's and Enzo Pastor of Shell-Team TEC favored to extend their dominance at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Silverio, who swept the action-packed fifth and sixth rounds on July 15, sets out as the top favorite anew over British Mark Goddard of Castrol-Chiasports and Philip Alvendia of Kart 1 in the Asian Formula 3 Challenge.

Silverio has a six-round aggregates of 95 points against Goddard's 67 points and Alvendia's 55 points.

Pastor is also favored in the Formula Toyota Cup against perennial rivals Roland Hermoso of Standard Insurance-KACE-Petron, Kirk Arambulo of Kart 1 and J. Tuason of Standard Insurance-KACE.

Pastor has 97 points, 18 points ahead of Hermoso in this annual series sponsored by Shell, Toyota, Norkis-Yamaha, Kilton Motors, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, Llumar, CGU Insurance, Philippine Internet Directory and MOF Company.

Arambulo is a far third with 63 points, while Tuason is fourth with 49 points and Elson Carpio of Shell is fifth with 32 points.

Also scheduled this weekend are the National Super Bike Championships and the Maxi Scooter Series.

For details, call the Batangas Racing Circuit Association at tel. 817-2469.

Castrol favored

CASTROL-ACCESS Plus riders, led by 1999 Rider of the Year awardee Toti Alberto, resume their campaign for the overall title in the National Super Bike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas this weekend.

Alberto tries to notch his first win against a small but tough field which include perennial rival Jolet Jao in the centerpiece expert open category.

The 31-year-old motorcycle shop owner from Cubao finished second in two of the first three races to stay within striking distance in second place with 57 points. Jao has 70 points.

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Another round, please

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

MORE beer, please. Make that Pilsner Urquell, the Czech beer sold only at Caffe Appassionato on Garcia Street in Makati.

I'm celebrating because San Miguel Beer won Game 3 against Batang Red Bull, 100-91, on Friday. Quintin Balajadia, my newest legman, is picking up the tab afterwards for having sided with Batang Red Bull. Poor QB.

So, keep 'em coming. Sky's the limit, fellas.

OK, here's another one.

San Miguel Beer will make it 2-2 tonight in its championship showdown with Batang Red Bull for the PBA Commissioner's Cup.

If I'm wrong, I'll lose a backpack. Could be the model used by Ador, who knows.

I said that Red Bull would win Games 1 and 2. It happened because, in Game 1, Red Bull outsmarted San Miguel in the endgame. In Game 2, Red Bull won because it had the momentum of Game 1, the inspiration to win again.

But I picked San Miguel in Game 3. Hunch. Few teams can three-straight an opponent in a championship series. Especially if that opponent is heavily favored to win the crown—as in the case of San Miguel.

Of course, Red Bull was still inspired with that 2-0 lead. Who wouldn't be? But the pressure of keeping a winning streak is the hardest thing to deal with in sports. Look at Tiger Woods; seemingly, his winning streak of two PGA Championships ended yesterday. The world's No. 1 could barely make the cut, sinking a 40-footer on 15 to advance.

Many thought San Miguel would lose for a third time on Friday. Not me. Entering Game 3, San Miguel wasn't playing for the crown anymore. Rather, it was playing for ego. Pride.

How many games have been won in the name of pride?

As coach, Jong Uichico has given San Miguel five titles in six finals appearances in 2-1/4 seasons. For him to fall 0-3 against a team dubbed the underdog would be like seeing Manny Pacquiao lose to Onyok Velasco. In one round.

Red Bull's stab at the crown had its first real thrust on Friday. A win would have put the Thunder's right foot inside the trophy room.

But SMB had the door padlocked tight. And Jong Uichico held both the master and duplicate keys.

Kerby Raymundo didn't help Red Bull's cause any when he sneaked in a punching foul on Dorian Peña after a rebound scramble. He got ejected for that. But, of course. With Raymundo gone, Red Bull could barely make a dent; it merely struggled to survive.

Tonight, grilled *bangus* (milkfish) would adorn the dining table. That is, if San Miguel wins a second time. Courtesy of—you guessed it right—Quintin Balajadia. *Bangus* pairs well with beer.

Make that Pilsner Urquell.

GAME 4 TODAY

Uichico: Pressure is now on Batang Red Bull's side

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GAME TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
6 p.m. – SMB vs Red Bull

EVEN though San Miguel Beer still trails the series, coach Jong Uichico claimed that the pressure is on Batang Red Bull's side. But for the Thunder's Yeng Guiao, it's just a matter of re-adjustment — especially on the Beermen's newly found "physical game."

That's the contrasting diagnoses of both coaches going into today's Game 4 of their PBA Commissioner's Cup best-of-seven championship series at the Araneta Coliseum.

Fueled by the Beermen's 100-91 win in Game 3, Uichico boldly declared that the pressure was lifted from their shoulders and is now on the Thunder, which must win Game 4 or else face the possibility of San Miguel's mighty reversal. The Beermen are trying to be the second team – behind Toyota in 1982—to come back from 0-2 to take a PBA championship.

"I don't think they want to tie the series at 2-2 with San Miguel," said Uichico. "The pressure is on them to win on Sunday."

Though Red Bull led in rebounds (43-39) San Miguel took control of the other departments like steals (7-2), second-chance points (16-4) and even fastbreak points (13-5), which was supposed to be the Thunder's bastion.

San Miguel also gained on Nate Johnson's superb game that overshadowed Antonio Lang. The SMB import scored 31 points, made 15 rebounds, dished out five assists and swiped five steals.

However, Guiao maintained that they played very well although they suffered from the breaks in the endgame that forced them to go into a fouling frenzy and send the Beermen on the line at least six times in the last two minutes.

"I think we need to re-establish our game," said Guiao, who also noticed the sudden shift in the Beermen's game-plan to high-intensity and largely physical type of play.

"I believe (Dorian) Peña was there to rough up Lang," added Guiao. "We plan to make adjustment on that. We need to counter-act."

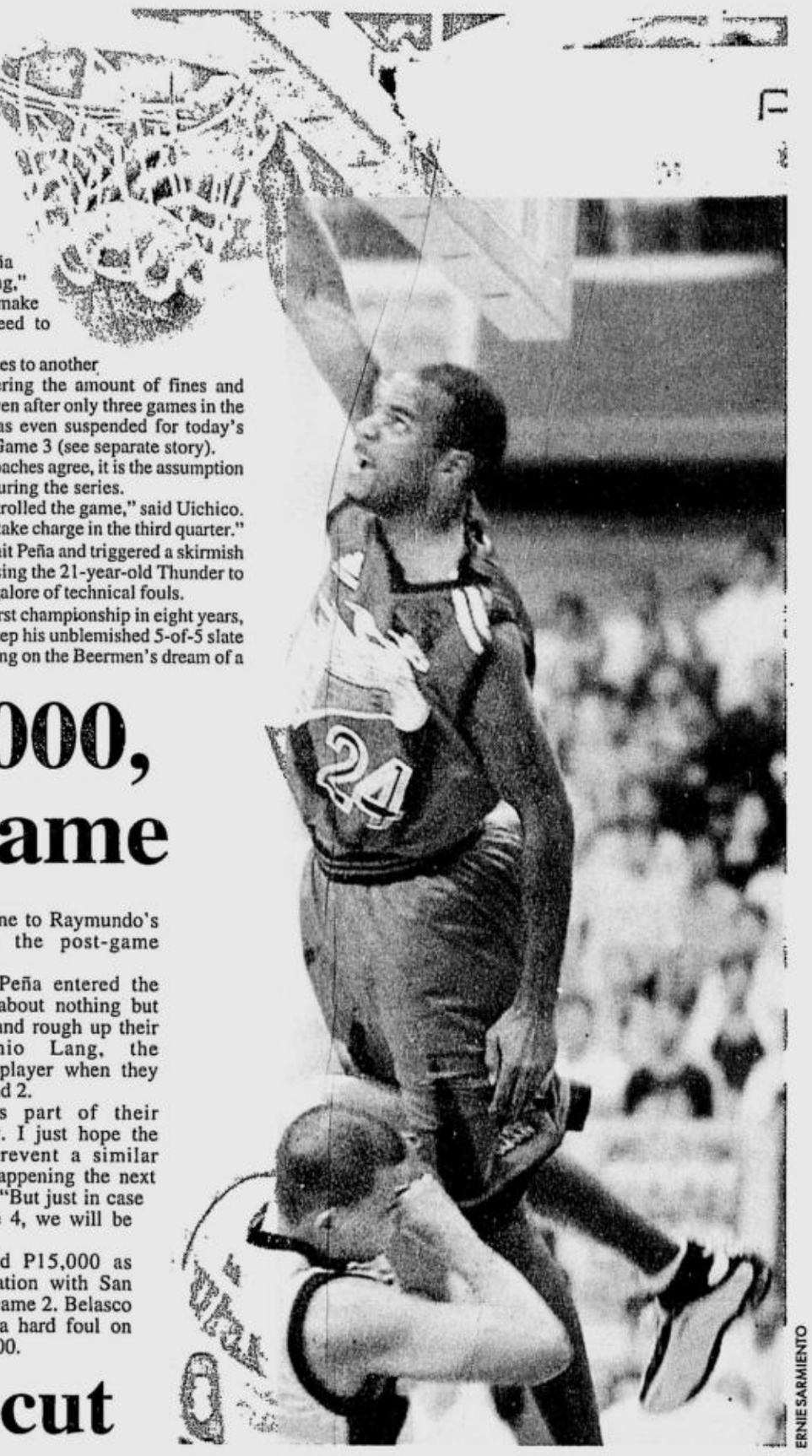
That may well put the series to another level of physicality considering the amount of fines and number of technical fouls given after only three games in the series. Kerby Raymundo was even suspended for today's game for punching Peña in Game 3 (see separate story).

Ifthere's one thing both coaches agree, it is the assumption that officiating was spotty during the series.

"The referees almost controlled the game," said Uichico. "Butsomehow they failed to take charge in the third quarter."

That's where Raymundo hit Peña and triggered a skirmish rightat the center-court, causing the 21-year-old Thunder to get ejected and producing a galore of technical fouls.

Guiao is looking for his first championship in eight years, while Uichico is hoping to keep his unblemished 5-of-5 slate in the finals aside from carrying on the Beermen's dream of a second Grand Slam.



ERNIE SARMIENTO

JOHNSON slams the ball in over Jay Mendoza in Game 3.

Kerby fined ₱20,000, suspended for 1 game

BY JUNE NAVARRO

RAYMUNDO

RED Bull's Kerby Raymundo was slapped a one-game suspension and fined P20,000 for hitting San Miguel Beer's Dorian Peña during Game 3 of their PBA Finals' encounter Friday night.

The 1999 NCAA MVP hammered the 6-foot-8 Peña with a forearm at the back of the head after a rebound scuffle, igniting a near "basketbrawl," 7:20 left in the second quarter.

"I don't feel any regret for doing it. From the start, all Peña did was to bully us inside the paint. It just so happened my patience suddenly ran out," said the soft-spoken Raymundo in Tagalog.

Peña was penalized P10,000 along with SMB's Dwight Lago and Red Bull's Ato Agustin, who both figured in a shoving match.

Without mentioning the incident, Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao came to Raymundo's rescue during the post-game interview.

Guiao said Peña entered the game thinking about nothing but to inflict harm and rough up their import Antonio Lang, the Thunder's key player when they won Games 1 and 2.

"Maybe it's part of their (Beermen) ploy. I just hope the referees can prevent a similar incident from happening the next time around," Guiao said. "But just in case it happens again in Game 4, we will be ready for it."

Guiao was also fined P15,000 as retribution for his altercation with San Miguel's Nic Belasco in Game 2. Belasco was assessed P2,500 for a hard foul on Lang, who, in turn, got P500.

2 share PGA lead; Tiger makes cut

KATAYAMA: One of the surprise leaders. AP

DULUTH, Georgia—The putt looked longer than his odds of making the cut.

Tiger Woods was just off the 15th green, 12 meters (40 feet) away from the hole. He was in dire need of something to happen to avoid taking the weekend off in a major for the first time since he turned professional five years ago.

Woods rammed the ball into the back of the cup for a birdie he needed just to have a chance in the PGA Championship.

David Toms and Shingo Katayama were tied for the lead after two sweltering rounds at Atlanta Athletic Club. Their record-tying 131s put them in a position they had never been in at a major championship. *AP*

Sky Hawk top Lakambini pick

THE LAKAMBINI Stakes will be run over 1,690 meters today at the San Lazaro Hippodrome, with P750,000 at stake.

Eight fillies will vie for top honors in the race sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission.

Sky Hawk, a two-time runner-up to champion Silver Story in this year's Triple Crown series, will attempt to finally score a big win after languishing in the shadow of the illustrious grey colt.

The tough bay filly by US-bred Piker (Mr. Prospector) out of Corralera (USA), finished a close second to veteran Power Drive last July 21 in her only start after the grueling Triple Crown campaign. She will be ridden by Joel Noel Camu.

Dizon beats Gonzalez

XANDREA Dizon turned back the challenge of compatriot Katrina Gonzalez in the sudden-death playoff recently to rule the overall girls division of the McGregor Hong Kong Open junior golf championships at the new Hong Kong Golf Club course in Fanling.

Dizon also won the Angela Leong China Junior golf open before copping the 11-13 years girls category in the Hong Kong Open to bring home the Laura Tilbury trophy.

Carlo Santos Ocampo captured second place in the 13-14, while Michael Bibat wound up fourth in the 15-17 class as the Filipino boys also fared well in the tournament.

Sta. Elena bags 2 titles

STA. ELENA captured two of the three divisions titles disputed in dominating the fifth leg of the Callaway-sponsored Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) circuit at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club course recently.

Rio Co, Therese Dabao, Menchie Millonado and Venice Godio joined hands to power Sta. Elena to a four-point victory over the highly fancied Canlubang squad in Class A.

Co scored 41, Dabao chipped in 39, Millonado had 38 and Godio tallied 35 as Sta. Elena posted 150 against the

SPORTSWATCH

RP batters spank Belgians

KALAMAZOO, Michigan—Team Manila easily beat Belgium, 3-1, to claim the international championship of the Big League Girls' Softball World Series Friday at the Wilson Field of the Vanderberg Park here. Deprived of their place in the finals by spotty officiating in the game against the host team a day before and two earlier setbacks, the MayniLA Golden Girls vented their ire on the hapless Belgians, the European champions, in the battle between two debuting teams in the 16-18 age bracket of the Little League International youth program.

Gomez scores upset again

FILIPINO National Master John Paul Gomez posted his second straight upset and kept pace with the frontrunners after the second round Friday of the World Junior Chess Championships in Peristeri, Greece. Gomez, seeded 85th in the 91-man field of the top under-20 years old players in the world, turned the tables on No. 27 seed Joost Berkvens of the Netherlands to pick up his second point and stay in the lead with 12 others led by GM Bu Xiang of China.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Championship, Third Round at 7 a.m. (r), Final Round tomorrow at 2 a.m. on Skycable 29 and Home Cable 29
Senior PGA Bellsouth Senior Classic, Second Round at 1 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: CART Miller Lite 200 at 10 a.m. (r) on ESPN
CART Pole Qualifying at 12 noon on ESPN
2001 F1 Qualifying - Hungarian Grand Prix at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
Race Day - Hungarian Grand Prix at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 6:30 p.m. on ESPN

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT	GB
East				
New York	73	49	.598	—
Boston	66	54	.550	6
Toronto	58	64	.475	15
Baltimore	52	70	.426	21
Tampa Bay	43	80	.350	30 1/2
Central				
Cleveland	68	53	.562	—
Minnesota	64	58	.525	4 1/2
Chicago	60	60	.500	7 1/2
Detroit	50	70	.417	17 1/2
Kansas City	49	73	.402	19 1/2
West				
Seattle	87	35	.713	—
Oakland	70	52	.574	17
Anaheim	65	57	.533	22
Texas	52	70	.426	—

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	PCT	GB
East				
Atlanta	67	54	.554	—
Philadelphia	67	54	.554	—
Florida	59	62	.488	8
New York	54	68	.443	13 1/2
Montreal	52	70	.426	15 1/2
Central				
Chicago	68	52	.567	—
Houston	69	53	.566	
St. Louis	66	55	.545	2 1/2
Milwaukee	51	68	.429	16 1/2
Cincinnati	48	73	.397	20 1/2
Pittsburgh	45	76	.372	23 1/2
West				
Arizona	70	51	.578	—
San Francisco	69	53	.566	1 1/2
Los Angeles	67	55	.549	3 1/2
San Diego	60	61	.496	10
Colorado	51	70	.421	19

COMPLETE RESULTS
American League
Toronto 11, Texas 3, Baltimore 11, Boston 5, Anaheim 7, Cleveland 2; N.Y. Yankees 4, Seattle 0; Detroit 4, Kansas City 2; Tampa Bay 9, Minnesota 4, Oakland 9, Chicago White Sox 2.
National League
Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 1; Houston 6, Pittsburgh 5; St. Louis 4, Philadelphia 3; Colorado 12, Florida 5; Montreal 4, San Diego 0; Arizona 7, Chicago Cubs 2; Los Angeles 8, N.Y. Mets 3; Atlanta 2, San Francisco 1. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Morning Nell 2. Nag-lisang Ikaw 3. Aaron's Hope 4. Dangerous Beauty
Race 2—1. Radiance 2. Charisma 3. Red Anya 4. Queen Storm
Race 3—1. Princess Helena 2. Ocean Menary 3. Al's Princess 4. Marissa's Diane 5. Unknown Entry
Race 4—1. All Smiles 2. Mrs. Big 3. Brazen Truth
Race 5—1. Sis Boom Bah/Wine and Roses 2. Native Talent 3. Mahdi's Gold 4. Exceptional Charm 5. Planet on the Rise
Race 6—1. Lovely Luigi 2. Grace and Fortune 3. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko 4. Cubano
Race 7—1. Speed Day 2. Lucky Fil 3. D Contractor 4. Remarkable 5. Defense Minister
Race 8—1. Ilocandia Slew 2. Sky Hawk 3. Serena 4. Speed Goddess
Race 9—1. Gun Express 2. Bravada 3. Bull Strike 4. Padron Real 5. Gifted Angel
Race 10—1. Ray Moon 2. Southern Skies 3. Queen Scholar 4. Raise D Sun
Race 11—1. Chances Are 2. Nagniningning 3. Maximo 4. Happee Guest 5. Join the Fun
Race 12—1. Dragon Lover/Silver Dollar 2. Ahead of Time 3. Yallah's Princess 4. Primeministrator
Race 13—1. War General 2. Winter's Fury 3. Queen Jamie 4. Pep Talk 5. Typhoon Belle
Race 14—1. Legend of Gaia 2. Midnight Rose 3. Bidang Bida 4. Noble Regent

PRC outgrosses MJC

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

LOOK what a string of excellently handicapped races can do.

The Philippine Racing Club came up with such a superb package of races in its last five-day schedule and was vastly rewarded.

It's gross sales for the Aug. 8-12 lineup reached a jaw-dropping P126.8 million, an all-time high that shamed the previous record set at the Manila Jockey Club two months ago.

That PRC feat was achieved mainly because the club finally realized the importance of the new handicapping guidelines implemented by the Philippine Racing Commission.

Like a whiff of fresh air, the Philracom system worked wonders for the club which has been criticized lately for allegedly allowing an employee known at the tracks as "Boy Garapal" to "control" its handicapping.

Now that "Boy Garapal" and his cohorts no longer have sole discretion in the club's handicapping of races, expect PRC sales to soar in its coming racedays.

Not only the Philracom and PRC were saluted by the *kareristas* for that feat. The Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners (Marho) and Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo) were also lauded for working alongside the Philracom in bringing about the new handicapping rules.

By the way, the former record sales for a five-day racing schedule was P125.3 million which was established during the Gran Copa Race Week (June 20-24) at San Lazaro.

Can the MJC get back at the PRC as far as setting sales record is concerned?

My Silip Boy said that if the MJC does not have a "Boy Garapal" in its handicapping division, there's always a good chance of tallying huge sales.

Abangan na lang natin!

* * *

Without Silver Story in sight, Sky Hawk (Piker-Corralera) is expected to go up as heavy favorite in this afternoon's 1,690-meter Lakambini Stakes at San Lazaro.

Tata Ochie Santos' bay filly, twice runner-up to Silver Story in the recent Triple Crown, faces seven others in the race with the streaking Serena (Perfect Halo-Rich and Ready) looming as the biggest threat.

The Lakambini Stakes is a part of the Philracom's Distaff Championships which climaxes at the end of the year with the P1-million Sampaguita Championship.

In last year's Lakambini run, Jesus Guce rode Going Free to an upset win over Hazmoore over 1,800 meters.

Army, Air Force clash

ARMY and Air Force will dispute the 1st PA-Utilco football title at 3:30 p.m. today at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio. The tourney is organized by Army, sponsored by Utilco International Trading Corp. and sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation. Navy and Kaya Football Club clash at 1 p.m.

SundaySPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Chinese shuttlers arriving

THE VAUNTED Chinese squad, led by world's No. 1 ladies doubles team of Guo Ling and Huang Sui, arrives today for the $150,000 JVC Asian Badminton Championships which fires off Aug. 22 at the Philsports Arena. The 22-player contingent is toughened up by a series of tournaments in the last two months.

SAN Juan will lean much on Rafi Reavis in today's Game 2.

MBA FINALS

Knights seek equalizer vs Slashers

GAME TODAY
USLS Gym (Bacolod City)
5:00 p.m.—Negros vs Andok's San Juan

BACOLOD—The Andok's San Juan Knights have to shoot better, rebound well and play cohesively if they wish to equalize with the Negros Slashers in their MBA First Phase title series at 5 p.m. today.

These were the weaknesses exploited by the Slashers in routing the Knights, 93-75, on Friday in the opener of their best-of-five playoffs at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

And another victory by the Slashers in tonight's encounter would assure them of a return of the series to their homecourt, granting that the Knights sweep Games 3 and 4 at the San Juan Gym.

Negros coach Robert Sison is aware that repeating over San Juan would be a lot more difficult as the Knights' aim is to steal one of the first two games.

Sison, however, said the Slashers are ready and are thoroughly motivated to play the Knights on any level.

The Slashers got an additional boost with the return of power leaper Leo Bat-og, who served a one-game suspension for a punching foul on Cebuana Lhuillier's Willie Mejia in the semifinals.

The Knights will miss a vital cog in Danny Capobres, who was slapped a one-game suspension and fined P10,000 for three offenses in Game 1.

Upon review of the tape, MBA Commissioner Ogie Narvasa noted that Capobres hit the head of the driving John Ferriols, cut under the leg of the driving Egay Ignacion and violently pushed Reynel Hugnatan aside after jockeying for position.

Negros' Cid White was fined P5,000 for tripping San Juan's Rafi Reavis.

Sans Capobres and with the return of Bat-og, the smaller but more aggressive Slashers are expected to keep their 52-48 edge off the boards in Game One.

RP 5 triumphs

Games Today
4 p.m.—Philippines vs Mongolia
6 p.m.—Canada vs Chinese Taipei
8 p.m.—Korea vs South Africa

TAIWAN, Kaohsiung County—The Philippine team made Canada pay for its complacency, pulling off a mighty 82-72 upset win to begin its 24th William Jones Cup campaign on a blazing note at the Feng Sheng Stadium here Friday night.

La Salle nips FEU; fans attack refs

BY DENNIS U. EROA

GAMES TODAY (Loyola Gym)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs UST
4 p.m.—UE vs UP

HOOLIGANISM reared its ugly head as hot-headed fans from the Far Eastern University attacked three referees following the Tamaraws' 62-63 setback to defending champion La Salle last night in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

Tournament director Chot Reyes along with his fellow Asian Basketball Academy officials were still reviewing the tape of the game, including the crucial call made by Garchie Ferrer which awarded two free throws to a driving Mike Cortez, 2.4 seconds remaining and the score tied at 62-62. Cortez sank the first, before intentionally missing the second as La Salle duplicated its first round victory over FEU.

Referee Raffy Britannico suffered a cut below his eyelid, while Jun Arlegui and Ferrer luckily escaped unharmed when FEU fans swarmed all over them as they went to their locker room.

Earlier, Ateneo rallied past National University, 86-77, to share the lead with archrival La Salle with 7-1 card. FEU dropped to 5-3 win-loss card.

"The tape won't lie. There was a foul," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren. "Why instigate a riot? In a display of sportmanship, FEU mentor Koy Banal shook hands with his counterpart, but his action didn't rub on to the Tams' supporters.\

After Leo Avenido deadlocked the game, 62-62, 6.8 ticks remaining, Cortez drove all the way to the basket and was clearly hit in the head by FEU slotman Ryzal Castro.

The riotous end came as a complete surprise since both teams were at the losing end of the extra tight officiating. La Salle finished with 25 fouls, two less than FEU. The Green Archers also nearly lost control of the game when Mark Cardona and Cortez committed two crucial turnovers due to the slippery floor.

Scores:

LA SALLE 63—Manalo 12, Cardona 11, Ritualo 10, Ramos 6, Yeo 5, Cortez 5, Gavino 5, Sharma 4, Wilson 3, Sta. Maria 2.

FEU 62—Avenido 17, Castro 10, Roldan 7, Jones 7, Zablan 5, De la Rosa 4, Isip 4, Conlu 3, Miranda 3, Tolentino 2.

Quarters: 14-19, 34-39, 48-46, 63-62

Las Piñas derby stakes P.5-M pot

EAGER to showcase the fighting styles of their new battlecrosses this year, some 75 cockers and breeders gird up for the "Annual LPC 5-Stag Derby" on Aug. 27 and 29 at the Las Piñas Cockpit.

At stake is P500,000 and three refrigerators for the champions. Entry fee is P11,000.

Pagcor-Casino Filipino is the derby's major sponsor. The derby's proceeds will be donated to several community projects of Mayor Nene Aguilar, like "Clean and Green" campaign, livelihood programs and barangay feeding projects.

Screening of stags, eight to 10 months old, are held at LPC every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Bates stagfest sets screening

SCREENING of stags at Mandaluyong Coliseum starts today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in connection with the "RLB Annual 7-Stag Derby" slated on Aug. 28 and 30. The derby's sponsors are Sagupaan Super feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Derby host Richard Bates will be on hand to personally supervise the screening and wingbanding of stags. The next scheduled screening at Mandaluyong Coliseum is on Aug. 26.

Stags banded by Pagba, Ucap, Migba, NGBA and GF-BAN are accepted to join, but subject to legbanding and age classification.

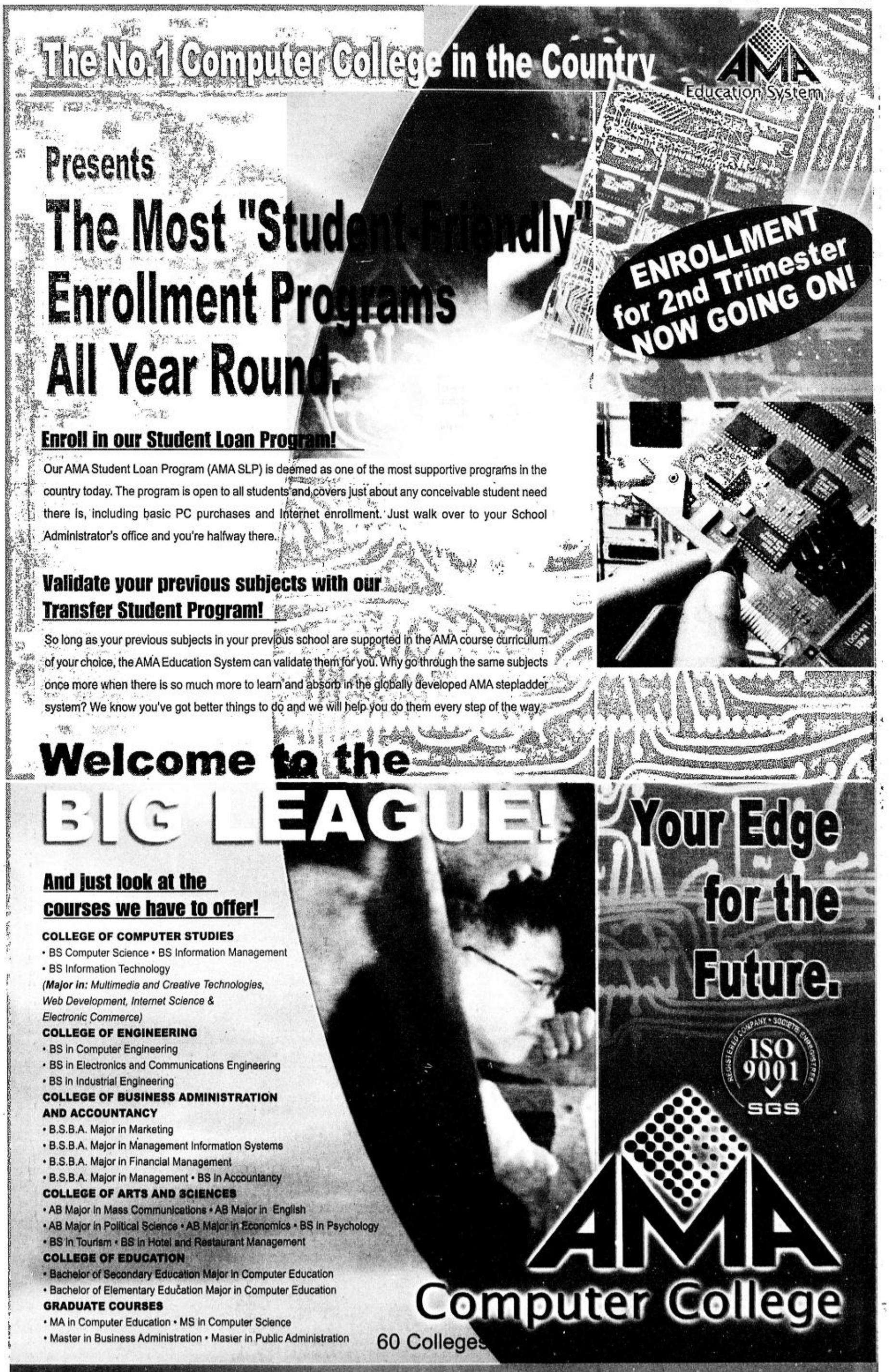
Individual participants who prefer farm-to-farm screening may contact Bates at 0916-3156991 (cellphone), (046)-4140750 (Cavite) or 824-0237 (Manila).

10 YEARS AGO

PUREFOODS beat Tivoli Milk, 126-118, to grab the first finals slot in the PBA All-Filipino Conference at the Ultra. It was the Hotdogs' fourth straight trip to the All-Filipino finals and sixth title series appearance since 1988.

* * *

PAENG Nepomuceno and Arlahne Cerdeña won the 1st SMBC-TCBA Open tenpin bowling championships at the SM Center in North Edsa, Quezon City. Nepomuceno tallied 462 pinfalls against Al Casio's 430, while Cerdeña had 361 over Irene Garcia's 348.



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By Globe Telecom

Comelec junks petition for special polls
A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Conservationists seek gov't help in restoring Mehan's 'old glory'
A23

Opus Dei school vows to fight for 'right' to use P1-B QC land

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

THE FIGHT over a 3.1-hectare lot owned by the Quezon City government at the Greenmeadows Subdivision that has been lent rent-free to a private exclusive school is far from over as the school administration vowed to fight for what it calls its legal right.

Officials of the Paref-Northfield made this declaration even as Quezon City Councilor Ariel Inton received threats days after he publicly declared he would file a resolution to formalize the nullification of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the school and the city government.

Maintaining that there was nothing irregular in the deal signed by the school and the city government which was then under the administration of former Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., Paref-Northfield executive director Pierangelo Alejo said the school would assert its right in accordance with the MOA.

Councilor Inton told the INQUIRER the threats were sent through text messages to his cellular phone.

The messages were "Beware of your life" and "back off," Inton said.

"I'd like to think that it's not them (proponents of the MOA)," Inton said when asked whom he suspected of making the threats.

Despite the threats, the councilor said he was determined to push for the revocation of the MOA, as it would only result in losses of billions of pesos to the city government.

Inton said at least 12 councilors had already expressed support for the move to have the MOA cancelled.

Alejo of Paref-Northfield, however, said the transaction was aboveboard and that rules were followed when the MOA was signed.

Under the MOA, the city government would lease the P1-billion property—donated by real estate developer Ortigas and Co.—to Paref-Northfield over a 50-year period for free.

After the period, the city would have to pay the school the equivalent of 25 percent of the property's appraised value, or the school would again take control of the property for another 50 years.

In exchange, the school would give scholarships to 200 disadvantaged students every year.

Homeowners in areas around the property, however, questioned the deal.

They said the construction of a school along the busy Greenmeadows Avenue could eventually create traffic jams in the area.

OPUS/ A22

EDWIN BACASMAS

REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Inquirer reporter Jerome Aning receives the trophy for being the choice of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption as Reporter of the Year, from Justice Secretary Hernani Perez in a ceremony at Malacañang Palace. Witnessing the awarding are (from left) VACC vice chair Lauro Vizconde and chair Dante Jimenez.

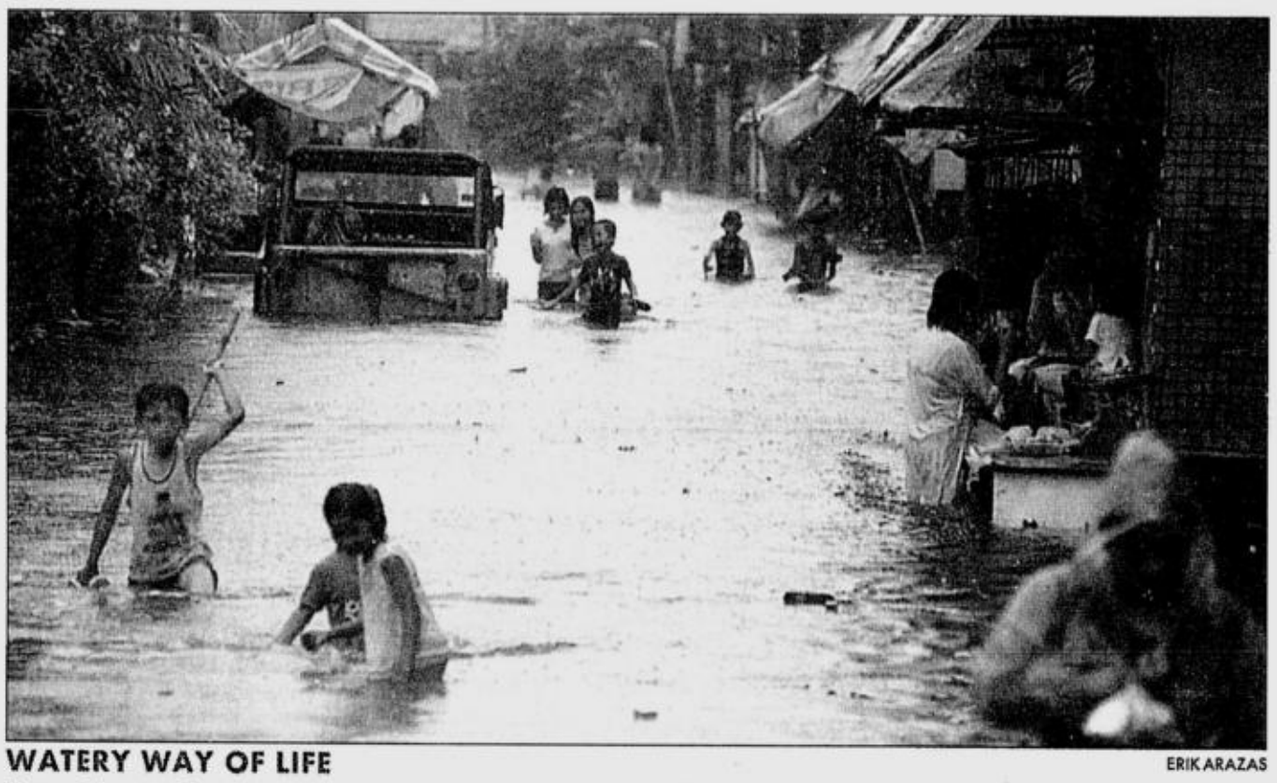
Foreigners in hunger strike placed in different jails

BY ALCUIN PAPA

LEADERS of the foreign detainees on a hunger strike at the Bureau of Immigration detention center in Taguig, Metro Manila, have been forcibly taken from their jail and transferred to other prisons in an apparent attempt to break up the protest action.

Members of the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force took away Canadian Raymond Jackson and seven others about 4 p.m.

FOREIGNERS/A22



ERIK ARAZAS

WATERY WAY OF LIFE

For residents of low-lying Malabon in northern Metro Manila, floods are a way of life, whether it's the rainy season or not. Friday, their streets were flooded again due to rains brought by typhoon "Jolina."

Metro mayors one in calling for return of police control

BY JEROME ANING

METRO Manila mayors firmed up their bid to restore control and supervision of the police force to local government units, during the first monthly meeting of the Metro Manila Peace and Order Council held at the Manila City Hall Thursday afternoon.

The mayors asserted that the devolution of police control and supervision to LGUs is crucial in the overall effort to improve peace and order in the National Capital Region.

"When we talk of maintaining peace and order, those at the forefront are the local chief executives since it is part of their mandate," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who chairs the council.

"How can (the mayors) do so effectively if the police in their jurisdiction are not accountable to them?" he said. "The issue here is mandate and accountability."

Also in the meeting were mayors Jejomar Binay of Makati City, Ma. Lourdes Fernando of Marikina City, Soledad Eusebio of Pasig City, Joseph Victor Ejercito of San Juan, Rosendo Capco of Pateros and Tobias Reynald Tiangco of Navotas.

Others sent their vice mayors, city administrators and secretaries. Also present were heads of the regional offices of various national government agencies.

National Capital Region Police Office Deputy Director Edgar Galvante said the number of crimes reported from January to July this year was 8,868 cases, or 15 percent lower than the volume registered over the same period last year.

The Metro Manila police, he said, registered a 94.2 percent crime solution efficiency rate in the first seven months this year, in contrast to last year's 88.93 percent.

METRTO/A22

Inquirer reporter is latest victim

INQUIRER reporter Rocky Nazareno is the latest victim of car thieves in Quezon City.

Nazareno, 36, of Sampaloc, Manila, said his white Kia Pride car (UPB-934) was stolen in front of the Rembrandt Hotel, said investigator SPO4 Edmund Senido of the Kamuning police station.

Nazareno told police that he parked his car

INQUIRER/A22

Beautician to rich and famous keeps beautiful friendship

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

IT WAS late 1952 and the family of "the man of the masses," Ramon Magsaysay, was in the middle of the hectic election campaign that would make him President.

Magsaysay's wife, the former Luz Banzon from Balanga, Bataan, was getting so busy that she had to have someone to help keep her well groomed for the endless meetings and functions.

The late Ambassador JV Cruz, who was helping out in the Magsaysay campaign, recommended Cresencia Lim, then 21, who was then working for her sisters-in-law who owned the Daisy Beauty Parlor in Manila.

It was the start of a beautiful friendship that is now going on its 50th year.

The petite and still sprightly Lim says she got the plum job to provide the hair and grooming services for Mrs. Magsaysay because of her experience at the beauty parlor.

She learned the trade at the Pioneer Institute in Escolta and has been practicing it since she was 18 years old.

She said she was lucky to work for the Daisy Beauty Parlor, which was considered one of the top parlors at the time. Prominent women in society went there for their weekly pedicure, manicure, an occasional hot oil or a perm.

"I would travel from the beauty parlor to the Magsaysay home at least once a week to provide home services to Mrs. Magsaysay," Lim recalls.

Hair and nails

She started going to Mrs. Magsaysay once a week but her visits became more frequent when Magsaysay became President in December 1953. She would be asked to go even twice a week, especially when there were state dinners or official functions at Malacañang Palace during the three-year Magsaysay presidency.

TALES OF THE CITY

She says she saw a number of dignitaries during those years although she does not remember their names. But she only saw them from the kitchen from which she and the late President's three children observed the goings-on.

"Mrs. Magsaysay has naturally wavy hair and I would style it depending on the occasion," Lim says. "Sometimes I would put clips or a fine net or style it a certain way as preferred by some of her designers. I would also perm her hair or give her a hot oil."

Busy man

Her relationship with the Magsaysay family, however, involved more than just the former First Lady. She was asked to clean

BEAUTICIAN/A22

'TITA' Cris Lim ROMY HOMILLADA

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Comelec junks petition for special polls

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

THE COMMISSION on Elections has junked the petition of the Nationalist People's Coalition and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino in Caloocan City to declare a failure of election in the city and hold a special election for local positions this month.

In an en banc decision issued on Friday, the Comelec resolved that there was no failure of election in the city, even as confusion reigned in many Caloocan precincts on May 14, and dismissed the NPC petition for the holding of special polls.

Defeated candidates Luis "Baby" Asistio, Macario "Boy" Asistio and Oscar Malapitan filed the petition after election results showed that Mayor Rey Malonzo and other Lakas candidates were the big winners. Malonzo has since held the mayoralty in an acting capacity before the Comelec decision was released.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo said in the commission's summary of votes and certification that four members voted to uphold the May 14 and 15 elections in the city. They are Benipayo himself, and commissioners Resurreccion Borra, Florentino Tuason and Ralph Lantion.

Those who believed there was a failure of elections in the city were commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Mehol Sadain and Rufino Javier.

Lantion actually voted to grant the holding of a special election "in those precincts that completely failed to function during the national and local elections on May 14, 2001 and the special election held on May 15, 2001."

"While it appears that Commissioner Lantion agrees to a holding of a special election, the same is subject to the condition that it should be conducted in those precincts that 'completely failed to function,'" Benipayo said.

"Records show that all the precincts completely functioned and successfully conducted elections in the first and second districts of Caloocan City as of May 15, 2001. Therefore, the condition set forth in Commissioner Lantion's separate opinion was not met."

The Caloocan City elections was marred by confusion after the office of the city treasurer failed to release the election paraphernalia on time for distribution among the precincts.

The Asistio camp claimed there was massive fraud in the elections and that the irregularity in the release of the paraphernalia could have paved the way for local administration candidates to allegedly carry out wholesale cheating.

Mandaluyong pumping station to control flood

THE CITY government of Mandaluyong has approved a resolution seeking for the immediate preparation of the feasibility study, detailed design and implementation of the Pasig River Pumping Station to be located on San Francisco Street, Barangay Hulo.

Mayor Benhur Abalos said the Pasig River pumping station would call for a flood gate to be constructed at the mouth of Pasig River, at the end of San Francisco St., and the construction of a canal involving six barangays.

"This innovative project is targeted to the end the inundation in Maysila Circle during prolonged heavy downpour as well as protect the welfare of motorists passing the area who are adversely affected by traffic jam in times of floods," stressed Abalos.

He explained that through this initiative, the city aims to erase its image as the 'amphibian' of Metro Manila being prone to flash floods, since the project station will pump-out floodwater.

The Department of Public Works and Highways through CTI Engineering earlier recommended that providing of pumping station to the Pasig River is the best alternative to resolve flood problem in Maysilo.

A study conducted by the DPWH Project Management Office-Metro Manila showed Maysila as a "flood prone area serving as catch basin before directly drained to a main drainage on San Francisco Street, with outfall at Pasig River."

According to Abalos, the participation of the city government in the project is thru by donating the land to be utilized as site of the pumping station which in this case is the 500 meter lot where the existing Barangay Hall of Hulo in San Francisco St. is erected.

Funding of the project will be provided by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

City Engineer Conrad Anciado said that the feasibility study and detailed engineering of the project in summation entails 18 months, but the young mayor called on the Study Group to speed up the undertaking and its subsequent implementation.

Fire destroys P50M

A FOUR-HOUR fire on Wednesday night razed a warehouse in Valenzuela City, destroying about P50 million in styrofoam products.

No one was reported injured.

Styroware Philippines on Mulawinan Street in Lawang Bato went up in smoke starting at 10:42 p.m. Wednesday, said SFO1 Edgardo Hingco of the Valenzuela Fire Department.

Authorities were still investigating what caused the fire at the warehouse owned by one Albert Tanlimco.

The fire started in the central warehouse area and spread until it had engulfed the entire establishment a few hours later, investigation showed.

Several firefighters and volunteers from Valenzuela and nearby cities and towns finally put out the fire at 3 a.m. Thursday, authorities said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 19, 2001
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Jer 38:4-6, 8-10*

The officials told the king, "This man should be put to death, because he is weakening the will of the fighting men and the people left the city. In fact he is not out to save the people but to do harm." King Zedekiah said, "His life is in your hands for the king has no power against you."

So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Malchiah the king's son, in the Guards' Court. They lowered him by means of ropes. There was no water in the cistern but only mud and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

Ebedmelech went and spoke to him, "My lord king! These men have acted wickedly in all they did to Jeremiah the prophet. They threw him into the cistern where he will die."

So the king ordered Ebedmelech the Ethiopian: "Take three men with you from here and draw Jeremiah the prophet out from the cistern before he dies."

2nd Reading: *Heb 12:1-4*

What a cloud of innumerable witnesses surround us! So let us be rid of every encumbrance, and especially of sin, to persevere in running the race marked out before us.

Let us look to Jesus the founder of our faith, who will bring it to completion. For the sake of the joy reserved for him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and then sat at the right of the throne of God. Think of Jesus who suffered so many contradictions from evil people, and you will not be discouraged or grow weary. Have you already shed your blood in the struggle against sin?

Gospel: *Lk 12:49-53*

Jesus said to his disciples, "I have come to bring fire upon the earth and how I wish it were already kindled; but I have a baptism to undergo and what anguish I feel until it is over!

Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on, in one house five will be divided; three against two, and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Commentary

In Luke's gospel Jesus is described by John the Baptist, as the one who will baptize the people with the Holy Spirit and fire (cf. Luke 3:16). In today's reading Jesus himself uses this strong language to remind the disciples of their real mission to bring about a new world order. They are to function as the fire of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus was destined for the fall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that would be opposed, so now Christians have to continue this prophetic mission in the wider world. Strong opposition is to be expected even within the very heart of the family. The disciples are encouraged to stand their ground even under adverse circumstances.

Father, you endowed us with a royal mission to bring about a new world. Give us faith and courage to remain faithful to this task.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (TORTS AND DAMAGES)—Moral damages—Petitioner is entitled to moral damages. Respondent's bad faith lies not so much on its breach of contract—as there was no showing that its failure to comply with its part of the bargain was motivated by ill will or done with fraudulent intent—but rather on its appalling temerity to sue petitioner for payment of alleged unpaid balance of the purchase price notwithstanding knowledge of its failure to make complete delivery and installation of all the materials under their contracts. Petitioner's right to withhold full payment of the purchase price prior to the delivery and installation of all the merchandise cannot be denied since under the contracts the balance of the purchase price become due and demandable only upon the completion of the project. Consequently, the resulting social humiliation and damage to petitioner's reputation as a respected business in the community, occasioned by the filing of this suit provides sufficient grounds for the award of moral damages. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Lagon v. Hooven Comalco Industries, Inc., G.R. No. 135657, January 17, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

HAIRY TALE. A young Lim attends to former First Lady Luz Banzon-Magsaysay, in an old photo from the beautician's collection.

Beautician to rich and famous . . .

(From page A21)

the fingernails of the late President but she was not able to do it, not even once during the term of the President from Zambales.

"There were times when I had my things with me and I was already holding his fingers," she says. "But just when I was about to start cleaning his nails, he would stand up and say he had something else to do. He never stayed still long enough for me to do his nails."

She described the late President as a very tall and stocky man who was always in a hurry to do a lot of things. He had a lot on his mind and was very busy holding meetings with his staff and other government officials.

Lim was also a part of the Magsaysay children's lives, occasionally cutting the hair or cleaning the nails of Teresita, who was then 19, Mila, 17, and the youngest, Ramon Jr., 15, who would later become senator.

"I remember that Jun had very long hair. I used to give him hot oil because his hair was so thick. I know it is no longer like that now but I still cut his hair sometimes."

Happy or sad

Lim became so much a part of the family that she would be present on all the important Magsaysay occasions, whether happy or sad.

She was by their side when President Magsaysay died in a plane crash. The members of the Magsaysay family were also by her side when Lim's parents died. Even after the Magsaysay family left Malacañang in 1957, Lim remained part of their Sunday routine.

Mrs. Magsaysay and her other clients contributed money to help Lim buy her own house in Bambang, Manila. Without them, she and her family would have been kicked out of the house that they had been occupying for years.

Her list of clients reads like a Who's Who: Dona Aurora Recto, grandmother of Sen. Ralph Recto, who was her client until her death a few years ago; beautiful socialites Nelly Gonzales and Betty Gomez and actress Tita Duran, wife of Pancho Magalona and mother of Francis Magalona.

Breadwinner

But despite the good pay she received from Mrs. Magsaysay and her other clients, Lim was unable to live as comfortably as she should because she was the family breadwinner.

She never married. At one time, she helped her sister through a debilitating sickness. She later had to help her brother raise his own family.

Today, Lim is still madre de familia to five relatives who live with her.

When asked why she stayed so long with Mrs. Magsaysay, she says it is because of the deep affection they feel for each other. She says the Magsaysay family has been very good to her and has always been kind and ready to help.

She returns their kindness by always being there when they need her.

Even now that the former First Lady, 86, is not as strong as she used to be, Lim is still there doing her nails and her hair, sharing the day's news or just a peaceful moment with her.

Metro mayors one in calling . . .

(From page A21)

Galvante said there were eight bank robberies, 17 kidnapping cases, 1,057 motor vehicle robberies and 1,104 petty crimes, of which 543 were cell phone robberies and 432 were street holdup cases.

He said police neutralized 69 criminal gangs, 23 of which were highway robbery syndicates.

He allayed fears about the possible spillover of the Abu Sayyaf's activities into Metro Manila. He said the terrorists only go to the NCR for "rest and recreation."

But the NCRPO official said they are watching the Muslim group Maredeka, formed during a convention at the University of the Philippines in June, which advocates independence for Muslim Mindanao.

Galvante also reported that police conducted 5,800 drug-related operations in Metro Manila where 5,998 people were arrested.

In southern Metro Manila, about 305 barangays have drug-related problems, the highest number in the NCR, Galvante said. The lowest number is in the eastern portion of the metropolis, which only has 76.

The mayors agreed to tap their barangay officials for the anti-crime drive.

But Eusebio of Pasig asked for more policemen to be deployed in her city where there are only 600 lawmen to keep the peace for 600,000 residents.

Galvante said 1,700 more policemen would be assigned to Metro Manila from the next batch of graduates from the police academy.

He said 464 policemen from other parts of Luzon have been assigned to the NCR and that he has advised police chiefs to deploy them in "priority areas."

Binay said the traffic situation in the metropolis is in disarray as violators caught by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's deputized traffic enforcers go scot-free once their cases are filed in court.

He said a recent Supreme Court decision ruled that the MMDA does not have police power and therefore cannot delegate such authority.

The mayors formed a committee to coordinate with the Land Transportation Office and the Philippine National Police's Traffic Management Group to define the extent of local governments' powers to regulate traffic.

They also resolved to work out a common set of traffic rules and regulations for Metro Manila's 13 cities and four towns.

Upon Fernando's suggestion, the mayors formed another body to conduct a public information campaign on the council's goals, resolutions and achievements.

Inquirer reporter . . .

(From page A21)

around 7 p.m. Friday in front of the hotel on T. Morato Avenue in Barangay South Triangle.

When Nazareno returned to check it around 4 a.m., the car was already gone, Senido said.

Police are looking for witnesses who might be able to describe the suspects who took the vehicle, Senido added. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Victim is from Yemen

THE FOREIGNER who died reportedly while he was with his girlfriend in an Ermita hotel room on Aug. 15 was not a Saudi Arabian but a citizen of Yemen.

Saleh Moh'D Al-Ghamdi, the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the Philippines, wrote to the INQUIRER to clarify that the dead man, identified as Rabi al-Nahdi, was not a Saudi citizen "but a national of the Arab Republic of Yemen."

Al-Nahdi was found dead in a room of the Frendy Hotel on A. Mabini Street, Ermita.

Foreigners in hunger ...

(From page A21)

yesterday.

Jackson was reportedly brought to the Intelligence Division jail at the Bureau of Immigration's headquarters in Intramuros, Manila. At press time, the INQUIRER was still determining where the others were taken.

The transfer of the leaders was apparently ordered by Immigration Associate Commissioner Daniel Cueto, who has direct supervision over the detention center in Taguig.

"*Nagkakagulo na raw* (It's reportedly getting really messy)," said Raymond Salting, media consultant for Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo.

However, a detainee who spoke to the INQUIRER on condition that his name is withheld, said their hunger strike went on peacefully.

"They took the suspected troublemakers away," the detainee said over the phone. "But the truth is, our hunger strike is very, very peaceful. We are just expressing our frustration with the way things are in here."

The detainee added that the hunger strike is now effectively over.

The INQUIRER learned that the detention cell at the Intramuros office of the Bureau of Immigration was "too small" yet it was crammed with people, male and female. According to the detainees there, the cell is "unhygienic and not fit to hold human beings."

The 104 foreigners detained at the jail went on hunger strike last week after jailed Indian Satnam Singh died due to heart complications.

The detainees said Singh died because he was not given proper medical attention at that time. By the time the jail guards took Singh to the hospital, they were too late, the detainees added.

The foreigners are also protesting the denial of their basic human rights like the right to bail and a fair trial, the lack of medical attention inside the jail and the slow review of their cases.

They claimed they have been illegally arrested and detained by immigration officials who also routinely extort money from them.

Immigration officials have denied all the charges.

Opus Dei ...

(From page A21)

"Everything was aboveboard," Alejo said in a phone interview. "The memorandum of agreement was perfected and we will assert that. They cannot revoke the agreement just like that."

But he said that while there had been reports about the moves of some local legislators to revoke the MOA, the move has yet to be made official.

He said that unless public hearings were held, the city council could not just pass a resolution to revoke the agreement.

But Inton, principal proponent of the revocation of the MOA, appeared bent on pushing for the cancellation of the agreement.

He said that although the MOA might have been perfected, it has yet to be consummated, so it would be easy to cancel.

LEADERS, BUILDERS
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is welcomed by Jollibee vice president for legal and corporate affairs Claro Certeza as she arrives at the World Leaders Build site at the Pinugay resettlement area in Baras, Rizal. The fast-food chain is among the country's top corporations participating in the building of hundreds of houses for many poor families in different parts of the country identified by Habitat for Humanity.

Conservationists seek gov't help in restoring Mehan's 'old glory'

BY JEROME ANING

WITH Manila's Mehan Gardens safeguarded once again from proposed constructions, conservationists and environmentalist are appealing to the city and national governments to help them restore the "old glory" of the 140-year-old public park.

"The park should not be allowed to degenerate again into a lair of crooks and flesh traders so the government and the private sector must cooperate (in preserving it)," conservationist and historical researcher Tina Testa told the Inquirer.

Heritage Conservation Society president Augusto Villalon has said the Manila Seedling Bank donated 1,000 mahogany seedlings which would be planted in the park.

The park is envisioned to rival the nearby Arroceros Forest Park as "oxygen lung" of the city.

The HCS has formed a team of volunteer architects and landscape artists to help restore the Mehan, earlier known as the Jardin Botanico, the city's first botanical and zoological garden.

Last week, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ordered a permanent stop to the construction of a two-story parking facility in the southern portion of the Mehan.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said Park N Ride Inc., which was constructing the parking facility, failed to obtain first a permit from the National Historical Institute to build on the Mehan.

Two presidential decrees prohibit anyone from altering, modifying, repairing or destroying landmarks, monuments, shrines and edifices declared historical by the NHI.

The proposed construction of the new City Colleges of Manila in the southern portion of the park has been laid aside due to consistent protests by the conservationists and environmentalists.

The city government and a DENR committee are negotiating with the Department of Tourism to use instead the old Ateneo de Manila campus in Intramuros as the new site of the CCM.

Alvarez said not only Manila residents but all Filipinos have every reason to preserve Mehan, which he called "a living memory of our people and a treasure that may be even older than Manila itself."

"We have a story to tell our children and our grandchildren," he said. "Let us build a community of sensitive Filipinos while the opportunity is still here. It takes a long process to build one; let us not destroy it in a single day."

Testa said Park N Ride should quickly dismantle the two-story parking building, located at the back of the Metropolitan Theater, because she is confident that NHI would never give a permit to construct on the Mehan.

"After the trees, we should put up benches, fountains and lights, and restore the old zoo and the aviary so that the people will once again come to the park," Testa recommended.

The conservationist said that since the park is also an archeological site, the National Museum should be first given enough time to excavate the place for artifacts.

During the Spanish rule, the park was part of the 16th century Chinese enclave called Parian. The Chinese community was later moved to Binondo.

In 1858, on the request of the Manila government, the Spanish king decreed the establishment on the site of the Jardin Botanico de Manila.

During the American Occupation, the park was upgraded and, in 1913, it was named after John Mehan, the colonial parks superintendent and sanitation chief.

After World War II, however, the park slowly deteriorated as the zoo's animals as well as the plants died one by one due to neglect.

GMA wants new law on ROTC

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wants a new law that will address the call for the abolition of the Reserve Officers Training Course.

She revealed this during a news conference in response to the growing clamor for the scrapping of the ROTC.

"In response to the complaints of some students about the ROTC program," she said, "I am directing the Department of National Defense, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Commission on Higher Education to collaborate in drafting a national training service bill..."

She said the bill should be responsive to the needs of students and the government and "feasible in terms of resources."

She said it should also be consistent with national security requirements and in accordance with the Constitution.

"As soon as it is drafted, I will send it to Congress as an urgent measure," she added.

The demand for the abolition of ROTC was sparked by the death of a University of Sto. Tomas cadet who exposed anomalies in the program.

In the past weeks, boycotts were launched in several schools by students demanding the abolition of the course.

Martin P. Marfil

HIGH-WIRE ACT EDWIN BACASMAS
While a curious crowd gathers on the street many floors below, members of the Bureau of Fire Special Rescue Unit conduct a fire drill at the Department of the Interior and Local Government building along Edsa in Quezon City.

Robbers take ₱900,000 from two QC homes

ROBBERS broke into two homes in Quezon City and took nearly P900,000 in valuables in the past two weeks.

The burglars looted the houses of retired government employee Virginia Alejandro-Duldulao, 59, and Eric Cardenas, 28, a National Life Insurance underwriter, both of Napocor Village in Barangay Pasong Tamo, said investigator SPO4 Resty de Leon.

Duldulao lost P380,000 worth of cash and jewelry, De Leon said. Cardenas lost P480,000 worth of appliances, cash, jewelry, clothes, and even shoes, he added.

He said Cardenas and his family were not home when the robbers struck between 12:50 p.m. and 8:50 p.m. Wednesday.

The thieves broke in by destroying the main door's doorknob, De Leon said.

The robbers then ransacked the house. Even the maids' quarters was not spared, De Leon added.

Duldulao also was not home when burglars broke into her house around 8 a.m. on Aug. 10, police said.

Duldulao reported the robbery only last Thursday, police added.

Philip C. Tubeza

Students reject DND proposal

BY JEROME ANING

MILITANT student and youth groups rejected a proposal of the Department of National Defense to make optional the Reserved Officers Training Corps program for male college students.

Abolish!, a coalition of anti-ROTC groups, issued a statement on Thursday, calling the proposal "unacceptable and insulting" to students since it is but a "rehash" of the Expanded ROTC program.

"It is a tactical retreat for the DND," Abolish! spokesperson Romulo Yumul said. "It shall only mean to preserve the militarist mindset and mercenary tradition of the military that it has instilled on many young minds through the ROTC."

Yumul said the DND proposal keeps the ROTC intact and under the control of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, despite the presentation of alternatives such as law enforcement program and community welfare service.

Also, its implementation does not cover cadets enrolled in state colleges and universities, he said.

Abolish! members held a rally Wednesday afternoon on Jones Bridge, lighting candles and offering flowers near the site where the body of University of Sto. Tomas student Mark Chua was dumped. Chua was abducted after he and Yumul exposed alleged ROTC anomalies in their school.

Students from the University of the Philippines-Manila are also planning to file complaints against their ROTC officials.

The school's publication, the Manila Collegian, reported in its Aug. 13 issue that several cadets were asked P13,000 in extortion money just to pass ROTC. This was denied by the school's ROTC officials.

The paper interviewed several students, who all requested that their identities be concealed. The students divulge the existence of a mysterious ROTC unit called "Sentinel" where those who failed ROTC subjects could join and be assured of passing the ROTC provided they pay various fees totaling P13,000.

Rey de Asis, College Editors Guild president and Abolish! co-convenor, said the group will also be advocating speedy justice for Chua, whose case is still pending at the Manila prosecutor's office.

Japanese tourists lose ₱84,000 to 4

BY JEROME ANING

TWO Japanese tourists lost P84,000 in cash and valuables to four women, said to be members of an "Ativan Gang," at a Manila golf course, police said yesterday.

The victims were Tetsuhiro Yamada, a resident of Kyoto, Japan, and Tomonori Sumino of Osaka, both are temporarily staying at Joward's Pension House on M. Adriatico Street, Malate.

The tourists told SPO2 Juanito Biag of Western Police District Station 5 that they were playing golf at an Intramuros Golf Course about 11 a.m. on Friday when four young women approached them.

Yamada and Sumino said the women invited them to a house in Quiapo where they all had a drink. They said they did not drink much brandy, but they later felt dizzy and lost consciousness.

The Japanese said when they woke up the following day, their clothes, wallets and bags were gone. They lost cash, camera, watches, jewelry and a traveler's check all worth P84,600.

Police learned the suspects only rented the apartment. Its owners took the dazed tourists to the nearest police station.

On Aug. 11, Japanese student Akiko Iwase, 23, was also drugged and robbed of his P5,000 camera and P20,000 in cash by four women at the Japanese Garden in Rizal Park.

Police are confirming if the suspects in the two incidents were the same. Iwase, an exchange student at the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, Laguna, said the women who befriended him were named Inday, Maligalig, Lyn and Anne.

Dialogues with Maliksi

TO CONTAIN a developing insurgency problem in upland Cavite, Gov. Ayong Maliksi has opened a series of continuing dialogues with his constituents in areas where sightings of New People's Army rebels have been reported.

Over the weekend, Maliksi, accompanied by officials of various government agencies, presided over a direct consultation with residents of Daine I and Daine II, two barangays in Indang with a combined population of 20,000. He listened to their problems and promised prompt action.

A medical and dental mission highlighted his weekend visit, which he said he would also conduct in other remote barangays in the upland towns of Magallanes, Maragondon, Mendez, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and Alfonso.

Cavite PNP intelligence chief Maj. Al Corpus confirmed the NPA sightings in some upland barangays and theorized that years of neglect by the provincial leadership could have motivated the rebels to consider penetrating those areas.

"Some barangays are already 'affected,'" said Corpus, adding that the rebels do not yet pose a serious threat to the peace and order situation in the province.

Maliksi has picked Daine I and Daine II as pilot barangays, where the local executives, the different government agencies and the PNP would direct their services and resources to transform them into self-reliant barangays able to fend for themselves economically and against rebels' intrusion.

Maliksi has ordered the Office of the provincial engineer to implement a program that would build a network of farm-to-market roads in the two pilot areas.

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*Invited

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Manay' gathers support for anti-piracy bill

BY LEAH SALTERIO

THE SURVIVAL of the local entertainment industry may well depend on a law against piracy.

This is why the House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 11855, the entertainment media anti-piracy bill.

However, after the third reading during the 11th Congress, the bill did not become law because there was no counterpart bill in the Senate. And congressmen did not have time to deliberate on the bill.

The bill was recently re-filed by Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos for the 12th Congress.

To support the bill, former movie producer Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda urges industry people to unite so they can immediately identify a possible sponsor for the bill in the Senate.

The House committee on public information will deliberate on the bill. Maceda is gathering comments and recommendations to provide the committee with the necessary information and support.

Maceda, known in show business circles as "Manay Ichu," said she would set up a meeting with Speaker Jose de Venecia to seek his commitment of support for the proposal.

"The audience with the Speaker will ideally have to be made before the committee starts deliberating on the bill," Maceda pointed out.

"I learned that during the last Congress deliberations, members of the film and music industry hesitated or did not participate at all despite invitations by the committee," she said. "We should not hesitate to make our contributions to improve the bill or show our support."

She is urging industry members to make a strong and visible stand for the bill, both in the House and in the Senate.

House Bill No. 11855 proposes to curtail entertainment media piracy in the Philippines and reorganize the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) into the Entertainment Media Regulatory and Anti-piracy board (EMRP).

The VRB was created under Presidential Decree No. 1987. The bill that seeks to replace the VRB with the EMRP says the latter shall be placed under the Office of the President.

According to the bill, the EMRP shall be the lead government agency in the fight against entertainment media piracy. It shall have the authority to regulate the importation, exportation, manufacture, reproduction, distribution, sale, lease or disposition of entertainment media in accordance with the rules and regulations to be adopted by the EMRP.

The EMRP board will be composed of a chair and 12 members who shall be appointed by the President. Representatives shall come from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Justice.

Other members shall come from the Intellectual Property Office, the Bureau of Customs, and the National Bureau of Investigation.

There will be one representative each from the video, motion picture, music and interactive entertainment software industries to be nominated by recognized associations and organizations, and two others to be appointed by the Pesident.

'PLANET OF THE APES'

No monkey business in Tim Burton version

BY RUBEN M. CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

WHEN my editor told me to do the review of "Planet of the Apes" (2001), I went foraging in our local video shop for the ape movie that started it all, the 1968 film that inspired a cult following and a slew of sequels, including a TV series which I could only vaguely recall. The original "Planet of the Apes" is based on Pierre Boulle's novel "Monkey Planet" (Boulle also wrote the war classic "The Bridge on the River Kwai") and stars Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Linda Harrison and Kim Hunter. I really liked it. The film tells an engaging story, has characters who deliver intelligent dialogue, lots of exciting action sequences and an ending that would knock the bejesus out of any audience.

Its thesis is irresistible: What if the arrogance of humans—borne out of being the dominant species on earth—is suddenly upturned and we find ourselves on a planet where we are inferior, a planet where talking apes treat us as shabbily as we treat simians here in our world.

The film's depiction of the ape civilization and their relations with humans deftly satirizes our own inter-racial clashes and other socio-political problems.

'Re-imagination'

Although "Apes 2001" follows the same basic plot of Boulle's novel, it is clearly a child of its times. Studio bigwigs at 20th Century Fox have been saying in interviews and press releases that "Apes 2001" is more a re-imagination than a remake but let's not get cute. Of course this is a remake and it is one imbued with the visual flair of Tim Burton.

Unfortunately, like most remakes nowadays, it also suffers from a screenplay customized for the mostly pre- and post-pubescent moviegoers of today.

As he did in such films as "Batman," "Edward Scissorhands" and "Sleepy Hollow," Burton manages to create a world straight out of our wildest imaginations. With the advances we have made in moviemaking, one certainly expects a dreamier alien environment. But even with such anticipation, Burton is able to surpise with portraits that are instinctively enthralling.

The dark and sinister look is very much the norm with films nowadays and "Ape 2001" employs the same, yet Burton's take is still several notches above par. The set designs—particularly the bustling and totally alien-looking ape city—exude a sinister atmosphere that seems to engulf even the theater itself (quite similar to the effect of "Sleepy Hollow").

Simians who can act

Quite expectedly, Burton also sets a faster, more intense pace than the original ape film, an urgency that is complemented by the pounding beats of the dancehall-like musical score of Danny Elfman.

But the apes provide the film's finest visual pleasure. These apes inhabit a world where the societal structure is very muck like ancient Rome. They are ruled by a senate whose members quite amusingly mimic the pretensions and foibles of their human counterparts. They speak English and quote and paraphrase commonly used English adages; and the reversal in the hierarchy of species has given new meaning to bywords like human rights as well as to jokes about raising our teenagers.

Thanks to the special makeup effects of Rick Baker, what we have in "Apes 2001" are not actors talking in gorilla suits but what seem to be real simians living out their characters and assuming inherent thespian talents. They're not, but it certainly seems that way when you see the fury behind Tim Roth's General Thade or jealousy in the face of Helena Bonham Carter's Ari.

Human emotions blend quite credibly with ape-like movements and expressions, and the actors' features and personalities are able to surface from beneath the layers of latex and fake hair. The apes are also more dexterous and agile than their predecessors in past ape films—able to write with hands and feet, for instance, or leapfrog like velociraptors to pounce on their intended prey.

Illogical holes

Sadly the human characters in the film are not quite as discernible. Compared to Heston's larger-than-life portrayal of the beleagured astronaut trapped in the hostile ape world, Mark Wahlberg's defiance is but a whimper. Kris Kristofferson doesn't figure at all in the scheme of things and major babe Estella Warren seems to have been put in the film just to look wild and sexy in tattered rags (But, oh boy, does that one work).

The actors are not really at fault. The writers are. The weakness of the human element is a testament to the dumbing down of the material for the sake perhaps of a broader market share. The serious social commentary that pervaded the original takes a backseat in "Apes 2001" in favor of more action sequences and gags.

The plot is also riddled with illogical holes including the requisite surprise twists that seek to duplicate but fall way short of the knockout ending of "Ape '68."

The bogus resolution of "Ape 2001" is perhaps designed to pave the way for the real resolution contained in a possible sequel, a kind of hustling that's been going on in Hollywood since forever.

It's been 33 years since "Planet of the Apes" was shown and it's about time a remake of this classic came out. Why not, when so many remakes have been done of films with lesser cinematic value. And while it is inevitable that the progeny suffers in comparison with "Ape '68," as far as entertainment value is concerned, this updated version is not exactly monkey business.

Don't. Let a pe.

Most admired people then and now

RECENTLY, we came across a comparative listing that shows how people's role models have changed through the years:.

In 1898, or 103 years ago, people were polled to arrive at answers to the question, "What person of whom you have ever heard or read would you most like to resemble?"

When the answers were added up, 78 percent of the respondents chose politicians, religious leaders and generals. Topping the list were **George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Clara Barton, Anne Sullivan, Julius Caesar** and **Christopher Columbus**. Very impressive!

Some 50 years later, in 1948, the survey was conducted again, with a minor adjustment. The survey question now read, "which person that you know or have read about do you want most to be like 10 years from now?"

That time around, the findings were mixed: Of the people polled, 33 percent chose historical figures; 23 percent chose sports figures; 14 percent favored entertainers, and 1 percent selected religious leaders.

Topping the list: **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** (for boys) and **Clara Barton** (for girls).

Flash forward to 1986, the third edition of the survey was conducted, with the question more succinctly reading, "Who do you most admire?" The results were decidedly different from the 1089 and 1948 surveys.

Topping the list were **Bill Cosby, Sylvester Stallone, Eddie Murphy, Ronald Reagan, Molly Ringwold, Chuck Norris, Clint Eastwood, Rob Lowe, Arnold Schwarzenegger** and **Don Johnson**!

If the survey were to be conducted for yet another time this year, can you imagine who would be on the Top 10 list of most admired people? Would **Eminem** be one of them? The times, they have a-changed—show biz celebrities have taken over the world!

'KUH SINGS STREISAND'

Pop diva Kuh Ledesma presents a new repertoire of Streisand favorites in "Kuh Sings Streisand, Part II," Aug. 24 and 25 at the Music Museum. Some of the songs in the lineup include old Streisand favorites like "The Way We Were," "Evergreen" and "Someone That I Used to Love." Also joining Kuh is balladeer Chad Borja and a special female guest. For tickets, call 712-0635 or 551-7252 to 53.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Fusion'

LATE this month, The British Council bridges cultures and musical genres with its "Fusion!" jazz concert tour.

The ensemble is made up of Matthew Barley, a cellist from the United Kingdom, violinist **Alfonso "Coke" Bolipata**, Latin pianist **Alex Wilson** and a top-rate jazz band made up of saxophonist **Tots Tolentino**, percussionist **Bo Razon**, bassist **Meong Pacana**, drummer **Mar Dizon** and vocalist **Mon David**.

They will perform at the Subic Bay Arts Center on Aug. 28, Republic of Malate on Aug. 29, Dusit Hotel Grand Ballroom on Aug. 30, Ayala Center Cebu on Aug. 31, and the Bacolod Convention Plaza on Sept. 1. For inquiries, call **Susan Arcega** at 914-1011 to 14.

TV treats

ON SATURDAY, Aug. 25 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, the film on view is "Best-Laid Plans" with **Reese Witherspoon, Alessandro Nivola** and **Josh Brolin**. They play three friends who test the limits of their morality, and find themselves caught in a dangerous web of misguided and desperate ambition.

Sunday, Aug 26 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace" has Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn meeting Anakin Skywalker, the young boy destined to bring balance to the Force, and Queen Amidala and the Jedi knights battling against the sinister Tarde Federation. Featured are **Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman** and **Jack Lloyd**. Replays are on Monday, Aug. 27 at 1:45 p.m. and Friday, Aug. 31 at 11 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Waterboy" stars comedian **Adam Sandler** as a young man who discovers that he has a unique talent in football. Adam becomes the best linebacker in college, but he must keep it a secret from his overprotective mother. Also in the cast are **Kathy Bates** and **Henry Winkler**. Replay is on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 2 p.m.

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A Piece of Eden is a bittersweet comedy that follows three generations of the unlucky Tradici family from Corsica in the 1940's to an Indiana fruit farm in the present. Young Bob, the first member of the family born in America, is heir to the family farm, but has no interest in farming and leaves to pursue a show business career in New York. When his father becomes ill, Bob returns and tries to revitalize the farm while cousin Greg tries to take it away from him. It is from the acclaimed director of *Frances, Woods* and *Bang the Drum Slowly*, which stars Tyne Daly, Rebecca Harrell & Marc Grapey.
Featured in the 1999 Chicago International Film Festival, A Piece of Eden placed third, among hundreds of films, in the Audience Choice Awards.
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VELASCO

Café de Malate contest

FOR THE FIRST time in 18 years, Café de Malate owned by Bobby Velasco, mounts a beauty search among its female employees. Eligible to join are dining supervisors, usherettes and food attendants, all pretty heads who deal directly with Café de Malate patrons.

"In one way or the other this would serve as a good work incentive for them," Velasco volunteers.

Ms. Café de Malate search is an offshoot of a smaller but long-term scheme, the Outstanding Employee of the Month awards. Up for grabs are monthly cash incentives—P25,000 for the first place, P15,000 for second place and P10,000 for third place. There are also 10 consolation prizes of P1,000 each.

Velasco mounted another set of awards of similar nature among his managers, checkers and male staff in general. Little wonder employees hired at the inception of Café de Malate in 1983 have opted to stay and remained loyal to the establishment to this day.

The Ms. Café de Malate search started on May 16. Criteria for selecting the winner are congeniality (50 percent), work ethics (25 percent) and personality (25 percent).

Candidates must personify the woman of the 21st century: confident and articulate.

Leadership and communication skills will be taken into consideration, as well as physical appearance (uniform, make-up and posture).

Coronation night is on Dec. 23, which coincides with Café de Malate's Christmas party, to be held in a posh Metro Manila hotel.

Ms. Café de Malate will receive a cash prize of $1,000 (or its peso equivalent), a round-trip ticket for two to Hong Kong with free accommodation and valuable prizes and giveaways from sponsors.

Elegant glass trophies likewise await the winners.

The ultimate rule that covers the search, according to Velasco, is decency, the same rule that he has rigidly imposed upon his girls through the years over at Café de Malate.

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opens Wednesday Aug. 22

GET a copy of the 4th issue of Pelikula! Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U.P College of Mass Communication. Special discounts given to Louie's THX members.

Ed Norton, Emily Watson to join new Hannibal flick

LOS ANGELES — Edward Norton and Emily Watson may join Universal Pictures' "Red Dragon," a movie version of the first book by Thomas Harris to introduce tasteful cannibal Hannibal Lecter.

Anthony Hopkins, who won a best acting Oscar for "Silence of the Lambs" (1991), is set to reprise his role as the psychiatrist-turned-cannibal for the film set to go into production this fall, the Hollywood Reporter said Thursday.

The thriller—based on the best-selling 1991 book—tells the story of a serial killer called Red Dragon.

"Red Dragon" will be adapted for the screen by Ted Tally, who won an Academy Award for his adaptation of "The Silence of the Lambs."

The story takes place 20 years before the action in "Hannibal," the second installment of the trilogy released earlier this year, but Hopkins will play his famous character's younger self.

Two-time Oscar nominee Norton ("American History X" and "Primal Fear") will play FBI agent Will Graham, who comes out of retirement because of his talent for catching serial killers.

Watson would play Reba, a blind woman with whom Red Dragon works, the Reporter says.

"Red Dragon" was already made into the critically acclaimed 1986 film "Manhunter," directed by Michael Mann with Brian Cox as Lecter. *AFP*

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PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20	PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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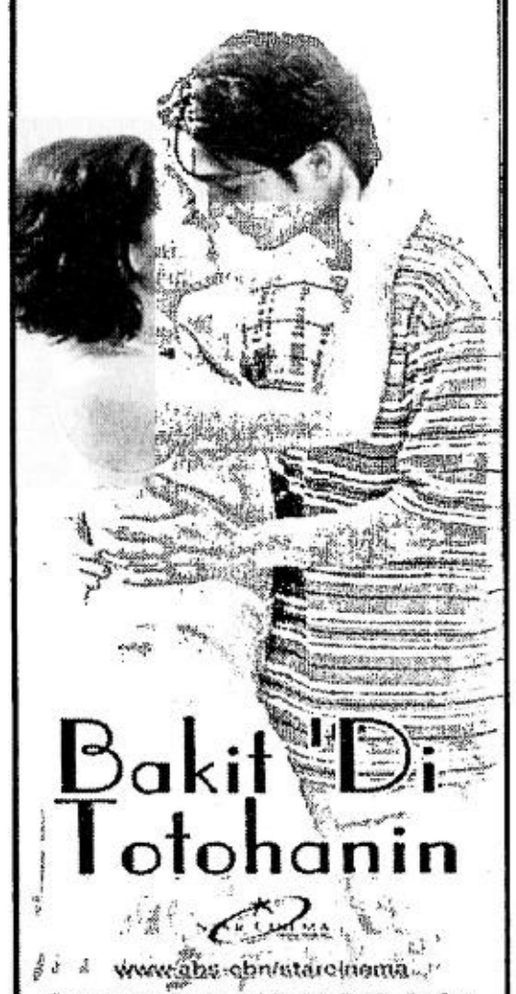
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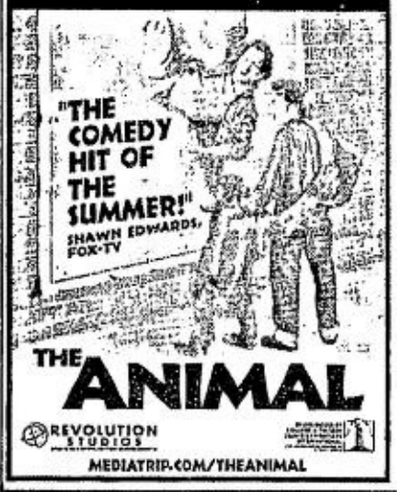
"THE COMEDY HIT OF THE SUMMER!" SHAWN EDWARDS, FOX-TV
THE ANIMAL
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
MEDIATRIP.COM/THEANIMAL

Schneider, 'ANIMAL': Hayop sa katatawanan

Rob Schneider, lovable Filipino star of the comedy hit DEUCE BIGALOW MALE GIGOLO is back, funnier than ever in Columbia Pictures' THE ANIMAL.

As Marvin Mange, he has the strength of a lion, the agility of a chimpanzee and the affections of... a goat?

Thanks to a life-saving experimental surgery that fuses his body with animal parts, Marvin's dreams of becoming a cop like his dad come true. Armed with new bulging muscles and a keen sense of smell, he even becomes a police hero, as he saves a drowning boy and sniffs out drug smugglers at the airport.

But complications arise when he starts falling for Rianna (Colleen Haskell, *Survivor*), an animal shelter volunteer. Will he finally be able to control his beastly ways with the woman he loves?

2ND WEEK!

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
The film contains language which young audiences may find disturbing.
Parents and guardians are strongly cautioned against bringing children 13 years and below.
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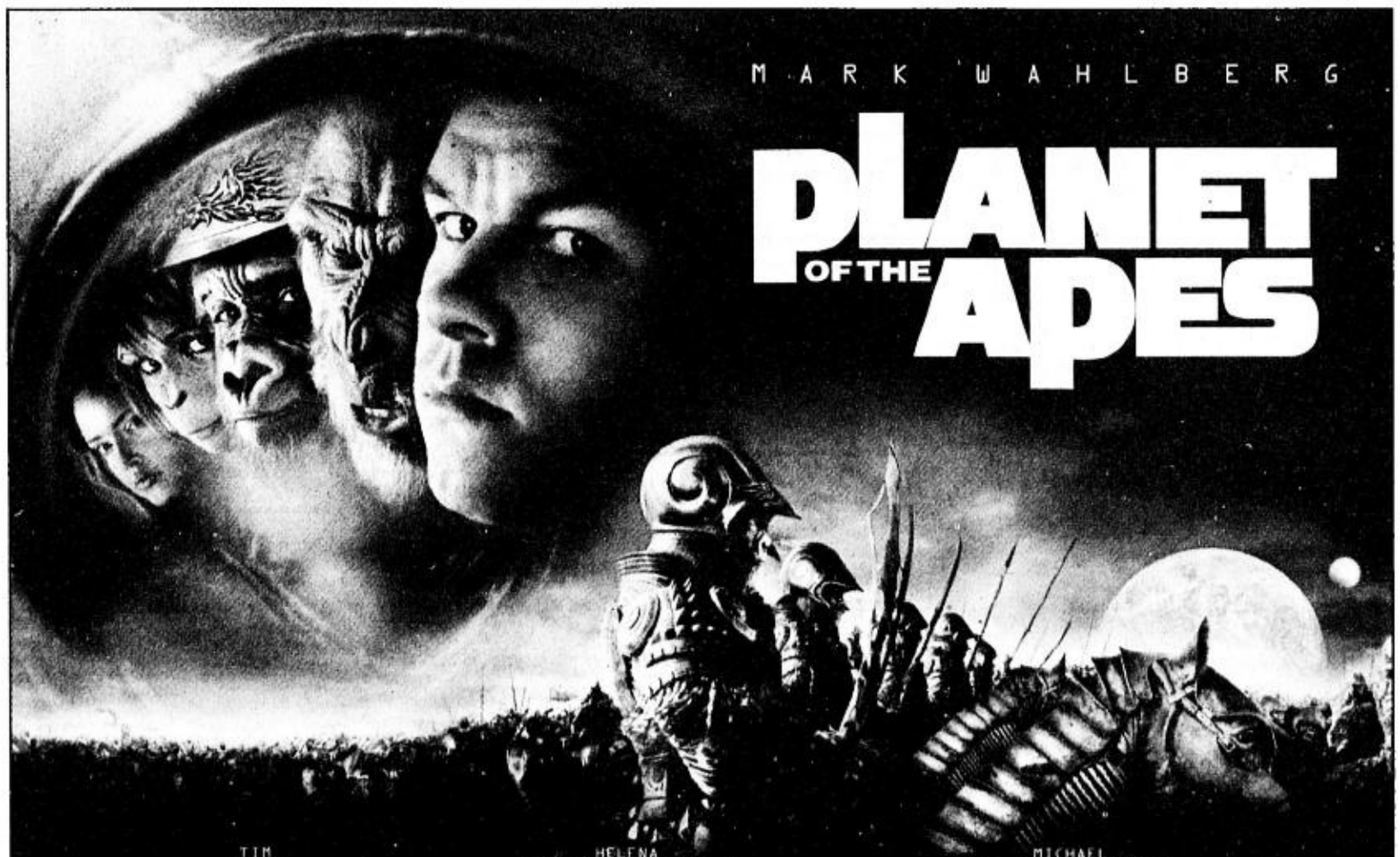
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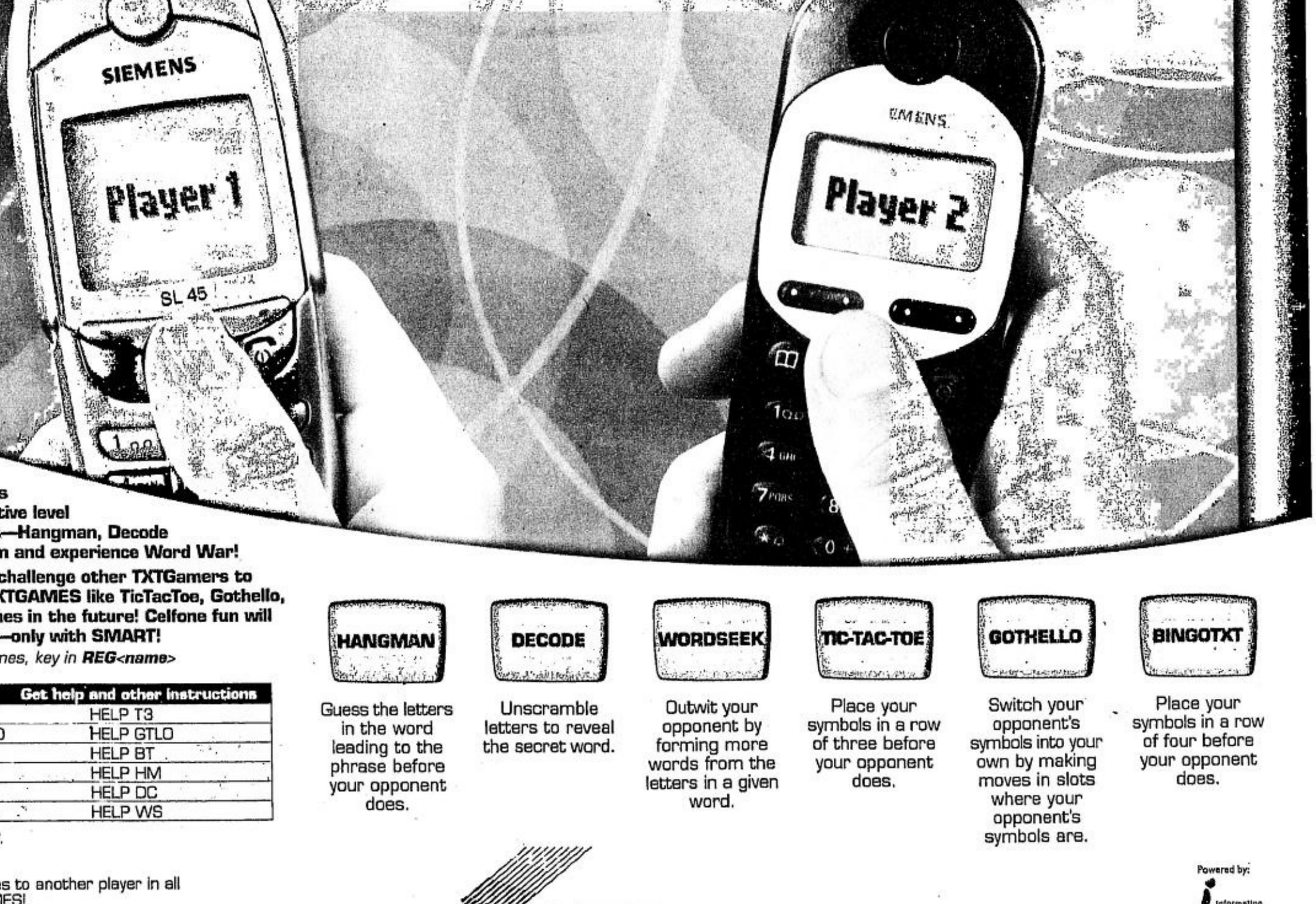

SMART TXTGAMES brings celfone fun to an interactive level with its newest additions—Hangman, Decode and Wordseek. Play them and experience Word War!

Play by yourself or even challenge other TXTGamers to other exciting SMART TXTGAMES like TicTacToe, Gothello, Bingo TXT and more games in the future! Celfone fun will never be the same again—only with SMART!

*To register in any of the games, key in **REG<name>***

Game	To Play	Get help and other instructions
TIC-TAC-TOE	PLAY T3	HELP T3
GOTHELLO	PLAY GTLO	HELP GTLO
BINGOTXT	PLAY BT	HELP BT
HANGMAN	PLAY HM	HELP HM
DECODE	PLAY DC	HELP DC
WORDSEEK	PLAY WS	HELP WS

*Send all commands to **238**.*

You can also send messages to another player in all two player SMART TXTGAMES!
To send a message, key in TO <nickname> <message>.
To reply to a message, key in REPLY <message>.
To find out your, or your opponent's rank, key in RANK <name>. Send all commands to **238**.

Each message sent to 238 will be charged P2.50

HANGMAN
Guess the letters in the word leading to the phrase before your opponent does.

DECODE
Unscramble letters to reveal the secret word.

WORDSEEK
Outwit your opponent by forming more words from the letters in a given word.

TIC-TAC-TOE
Place your symbols in a row of three before your opponent does.

GOTHELLO
Switch your opponent's symbols into your own by making moves in slots where your opponent's symbols are.

BINGOTXT
Place your symbols in a row of four before your opponent does.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SundayBIZ

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▪ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Solon-turned-banker comes full circle

TEVES circa 2001

DENNIS SABANGAN

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

FOR nearly all of his working life, Margarito B. Teves had been involved in economics and policy-making. Not too many people know that he actually started out as a bank employee.

Teves, a congressman for over 12 years, came full circle in his career, when he was appointed president of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Teves' long and distinguished career started in the 1960s when he landed a job as executive trainee at the Bank of Asia (now Union Bank of the Philippines).

His Higher National Diploma In Business Studies (equivalent to a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Economics) from the City of London College impressed his employer enough to pay him some P350 a month. At that time, some company supervisors got paid some P200 a month.

FIRST JOB

The former solon says his stint at the Bank of Asia exposed him to several aspects of banking. But after a year and a half, Teves realized that banking was not his cup of tea.

"I really wanted to do economic research," he recalls.

His love for economics began while he was a student at the Universidad Central de Madrid in 1961. At that time, the popular economist was John Maynard Keynes so he wanted to be one.

Career shift

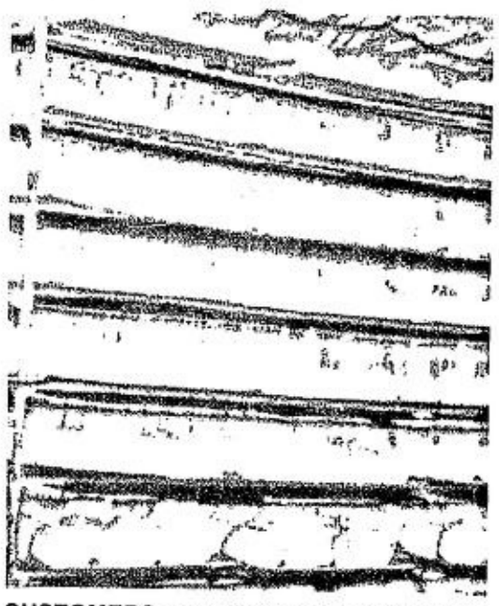
He then quit the bank and moved to the Presidential Economic Staff, the predecessor of the National Economic and Development Authority, which was headed at that time by Placido Mapa, now vice chair of Metrobank.

Teves got P600 a month for his work under former Prime Minister Cesar Virata. He worked for him until he went to Massachussetts in 1967 to pursue his degree in Development Economics at Williams College.

When he came back a year later, his

SOLON/ B3

GARY Teves in the 1960s



CUSTOMERS come from all over to sample the "Monay Bae."

'Monay' makes Laguna baker roll in dough

BY ROMULO PONTE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BAY, Laguna—The mouth-watering bread that we eat hot and fresh from the oven is the product of a family affair.

Romeo, the eldest son of couple Pedro and Isidra Tenorio grew up helping his parents bake the famous "Monay Bae" from dawn until dusk.

There was no need to hire other workers since Romeo, his three siblings and a few relatives pitched in to help their parents bake the famous delicacy.

Now, many years later, Romeo continues to help his parents bake the buns even if he has been practicing medicine for five years at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Manila and operating a clinic in Calamba City.

He does not consider leaving the bakery behind because all the hard work his parents put in baking the bread, day after day and night after night, allowed him and his siblings to finish school.

His parents, who only went to elementary school, wanted a better life for them.

"We finished our schooling because of the bakery. We will continue to love and cherish this (family business)," he tells the INQUIRER.

The daughter, who was not around during the interview, is now a B. S. Management graduate. The two other sons are still studying in elementary and high school.

Good location

The ordinary looking bakery is conveniently located along the Bay provincial road, helping it attract a lot of customers, even those from outside Bay. The simple facade belies the brisk sales that it runs up daily due mainly to the unique taste of the monay.

Pedro, 61, admits that the personalized, careful handling of the "Monay" adds tremendous value to the finished products.

He discloses that he puts in "a special ingredient" that he refuses to divulge.

"But the manner and the process of baking the bread is a great factor (for its delicious taste). We are not after the form and the external beauty. We are after the good taste," the elder Tenorio emphasizes.

The usual ingredients, he says, include flour, sugar, salt, oil and the (top) secret one.

"We put them in the mixer at 5:00 a.m. and then form them into specific sizes and put them on the plates containing nine pieces buns each and then into the oven. It takes 15 minutes to make the bread ready for serving," he relates.

Humble beginnings

Tenorio tells the INQUIRER that he and his wife started the bakery business in 1969 with the help of his cousin Ignacio de Ocampo. They started with an investment of only P35, which was enough to purchase one bag of ingredients to bake a day's pandesal requirement of about 300 pieces.

A piece of pandesal costs two centavos at that time.

The couple gradually increased the volume until in 1975, the bakery sold 1,500 pandesal a day. They, however, were not satisfied with pandesal alone. It was during this year that they also tried making "monay."

"We started with an initial amount of one-fourth bag of ingredients worth P300. Then we gradually increased the volume until the '80s when we produced 500 pieces per day," Tenorio says. "The price of the bread per piece gradually increased according to the various sizes "until we fixed the price at the current P5 each."

As more people patronized their products, Tenorio decided to attend seminars in 1979 to further his knowledge about baking monay. The seminars held in Cubao, Quezon City, ran for eight Saturdays and one Sunday.

MONAY/B3

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IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE

ONE wonders whether Citibank's Catherine Weir wasn't shocked when her bank was named one of the three foreign banks fined for alleged dollar speculation. But then again, was she?

ASSUMPTION BAZAAR 2001

The Silver Jubilarian College Class of 1976 and the High School Class 1972 will hold its traditional pre-Christmas Bazaar on Sept. 23, Sunday at the Ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati. Photo shows Assumption alumni led by wedding coordinator and Weddings Magazine columnist Rita Neri (fourth from right).

A speech worth delivering is worth writing well

"The Lost Art of the Great Speech"
By Richard Dowis
Amacom, 2000

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

THE DEBATE continues. Should a speech be written? Or should it be delivered extemporaneously?

I have friends and associates who work earnestly with their speechwriters for a well-crafted speech. But I also have friends who insist on "speaking from the heart," without the aid of either cue cards or manuscript.

And both categories of friends are successful executives—because both communicate—and lead—well. So, how is the issue resolved?

I have my own thoughts, but I would rather ask Richard Dowis, president of the 2,000-member Society for the Preservation of English Language and Literature (Spell), to settle the issue.

He is also the author of "The Lost Art of the Great Speech," sub-titled: "How to Write One. How to Deliver It."

Dowis speaks: "A well-written speech is a disciplined speech. It doesn't ramble. It gets to the point. It fits the allotted time. It contains no superfluous detail, but it doesn't leave out anything important."

And he continues to extol the process of writing: "Writing—writing anything—is just about the best discipline I know of. Simply stated, writing makes you think ... Writing forces you to think in specifics. Just putting your thoughts on paper in a sort of stream of consciousness might be a useful way to get started, but it's not writing. Writing is the application of discipline to creativity."

This two-paragraph declaration of a speechwriter, former journalist and senior vice president of Manning Selvage & Lee Public Relations, is the best reminder to public speakers to insist on a well-written speech.

After all, writing and delivering it is an art. Thus the title of the book acquires more significance.

And comparing it with another art form—filmmaking—is appropriate.

Dowis points out: "Writing a speech is a lot like making a movie. Much of the footage that's shot ends up on the cutting-room floor. The result is fast-paced, entertaining picture that holds the attention of the audience from beginning to end."

EXECUTIVE READ

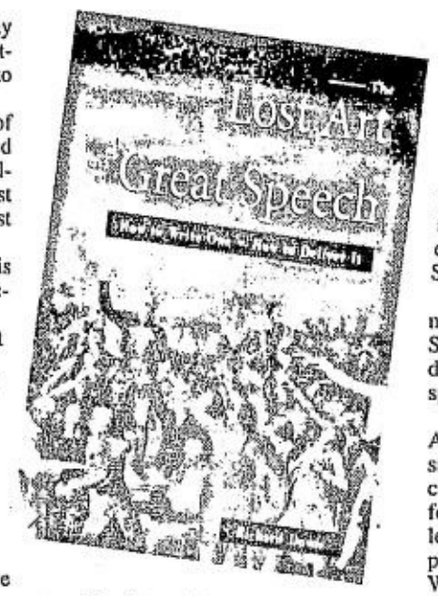
Dowis aptly closes the debate with this line delivered with authority: "That's what you want the speech to do."

And the author proceeds to instruct us—present and aspiring speakers as well as speechwriters—on the fundamentals, then the secrets, and the refinements of coming up with a "great speech."

Executive Read earlier reviewed two books on public speaking—Peggy Noonan's "Speaking Well," and Reid Buckley's "Strictly Speaking." Noonan gave valuable insights as speechwriter of Ronald Reagan—but went no further to include other speakers.

Buckley gave tips—some sensible, others outrageous—and most definitely as useful as a menu of choices fit for several occasions.

Dowis, revealing himself in his many anecdotes in the book as



speechwriter and counselor to several CEOs, has put together a comprehensive, well-argued and richly organized bible for speechwriters (who must continually hone their rare skills, and public speakers (who must, from now on, require their wordsmiths to read—and take to heart—Dowis' book).

All seven chapters are a treasure trove of principles on speech writing. Somehow, you feel that you are being given an interesting and riveting refresher course on the art of writing—using a good beginning, employing figures of speech like metaphors and hyperbole, and bringing a piece to a stirring conclusion.

The difference, however, is that the author has primed us to have a great speech in mind. And he makes sure we don't forget that, because, aside from the main body of the book, he treats us to the world's great speeches and boxed items called "Podium Presence"—some timely tips to master the stage.

That makes the book a joy to read. Just when you have a surfeit of his lectures, he refreshes you with wisely chosen speeches from well-known pieces from Lincoln, Churchill and Kennedy, to less known but equally great speeches of Adlai Stevenson and Nelson Mandela.

The author also lets us into the inner chambers of speechwriters like Ted Sorensen of Kennedy, citing the productive partnership between writer and speaker.

In a chapter titled "Wisdom of the Ages," the author reveals that the passage ... "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country ..." is antedated by lesser down and less eloquently expressed versions from Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes and Warren Harding.

Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death," a master in antithesis, is compared with Greek poet Aeschylus' "Better to die on your feet than live on your knees." Compare that to Apostle Paul's declaration: "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." The secrets of the pros are revealed by the author in one chapter—bringing you into the workshop of the best wordsmiths—using analogy, surprise, etc.

This book gives us a rare encounter with the world's great speeches and how they are crafted by the finest wordsmiths.

Are great speeches a thing of the past? Katherine Hepburn once sighed upon seeing the late John Wayne, magnificent on horseback: "They ain't made like him anymore." Before we say of great speeches, "They ain't made like them anymore," learn from this book.
(dantemv@i-next.net)

JOHN Gokongwei Jr. with his only son Lance, now president of the JG Summit group, and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco greets President Macapagal-Arroyo who came with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

SEN. Joker Arroyo with Education Secretary Raul Roco and former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara.

A private party with very public guests

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

LANCE Gokongwei in a huddle with Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

IT was a private birthday party, yes, but with almost 500 very public guests.

Cabinet secretaries, senators and business tycoons milled around the grand ballroom of the Manila Midtown Hotel last August 11 before the program started for what could be the birthday bash of the year.

Even President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and first gentleman Mike Arroyo were there to celebrate the 75th birthday of John Gokongwei Jr., the patriarch and the architect of the Gokongwei empire which includes food, retail, and airlines.

ELECTED officials like Senators Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto were on hand to greet the birthday boy.

The program was supposed to start at 7 p.m., but the heavy downpour prevented the guests from getting to the party on time. The program finally started sometime before 9 p.m. when the President arrived.

The grand ballroom was almost packed by then and the air was thick with excited Chinese chatter heard over the soft music from a three-man orchestra.

"Mr. John," as the taipan is called, looked quite composed for a man preparing to formally announce his retirement. If he had any inkling about the big party his family, led by wife Elizabeth, threw for him, it did not show on his face.

Over Peking duck, fried pigeon and the staple Chinese noodles for long life, former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor Gabriel Singson chatted with another former Central Bank chief Jose Cuisia Jr.

Tobacco king Lucio Tan shook hands with the birthday boy as soon as he arrived at the venue, sporting his usual white barong. Retail king Henry Sy was also there in his usual Hawaiian shirt.

MR. JOHN shares a laugh with Senate president Franklin Drilon.

THE BIRTHDAY celebrator blows out the candles on his colorful birthday cake as his wife and children look on.

"MY WEI," the commemorative magazine of John Gokongwei Jr.'s 75th birthday celebration was a labor of love by the Gokongwei children.

A music video of Frank Sinatra's My Way—with lyrics revised to fit Mr. John—was shown to kick the program off. It showed rare pictures of Mr. John taken during different stages of his life.

Then there were speeches by only son Lance, brother Johnson Go, eldest daughter Robina and brother cum heir to the JG Summit throne James Go about Mr. John as a person, as a father and as a businessman.

In between speeches, Cookie Chua of Color It Red fame gave soulful renditions of various old songs.

After the speeches, it was time for Mr. John's own. It was a highly anticipated speech as it included the taipan's formal announcement of his retirement as JG Summit's head by year's end.

His speech was touching as well as funny. Mr. John related how his wife led him to believe, up to the morning of his birthday, that only four tables have been prepared to celebrate his special day.

He also told the crowd how happy he was with his life as Mrs. John's husband and as a father to six wonderful children—"Lance and the five girls."

He also expressed confidence for the Filipino capabilities in doing business.

"I hope my work will continue for the good of the company and the country. We need to show that Filipinos can also compete," he said.

After announcing his formal retirement effective January 1, 2002 and naming his successors—brother James as chair and son Lance as president, Mr. John was given a rocking chair as a gift from the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation.

He sat on the rocking chair while Cookie Chua serenaded him.

The playful Mr. John came out when he took Cookie's hand and kissed it. He even rose from the chair and kissed her on the cheek.

When it was time for him to blow the candles on his very colorful cake, the whole family came up on stage, including his sons- and daughter-in-law.

Singson then led the guests in a toast for Mr. John, before which he related that he used to be golf buddies with Mr. John before the latter stopped playing the game.

"He is very competitive. Since he can't be the best (on the green), he just stopped playing," Singson said in jest.

When the program finally came to a close, people started flocking to Mr. John, greeting him and asking him to sign their copies of his commemorative magazine "My Wei."

The magazine is a treasure trove of tips on how a tycoon is made as well as a colorful depiction of Mr. John as a person and not just as a businessman.

Unfortunately, copies are not sold outside and were given only to those fortunate enough to take part in the celebration.

Mr. John still looked energetic despite the late hour (the program ended at close to 12 a.m.). He still welcomed well wishers with a smile.

For a man of 75 who has just announced his retirement, Mr. John, at that moment, did not look old at all.

TOBACCO and beer magnate Lucio Tan immediately shook the hand of John Gokongwei Jr. the moment he arrived. Looking on is former CG governor and now Gokongwei group consultant Gabriel Singson.

MR. JOHN with J.J. Calero, former head of multinational adveritising agency J.Walter Thompson.

TAIPAN Henry Sy enjoyed the food and the program with Robert Coyiuto Jr.

"MR. JOHN" with his wife, six children, daughter and sons-in-law and a grand daughter.

THE BIG party got underway when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo arrived about 9 p.m. She is shown here shaking hands with "Mrs. John," Elizabeth Gokongwei.

TEVES with his fellow graduates from the City of London College.

Solon-turned-banker . . .

(From page B1)

pay increased to P1,000 a month and he was made special assistant to Mapa himself.

After four years with the private institution, Teves got the itch to work for the country. Trite as it may sound, he felt he had to return something to the government for giving him the opportunity to pursue higher education abroad. So he joined the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

After helping draft the fundamental law of the land, Teves turned to farming.

Banker to farmer

He went home to Negros Oriental, and helped run the family's sugar mill. For five years, he hobnobbed with the farmers, until he was called back by Manila's concrete jungle.

Teves came back to Manila in 1976 and joined Ayala Corporation where he was put in charge of corporate planning. Later on he was made executive director of the Ayala Foundation.

He stayed for 12 years before once again trying on a different hat. This time as a member of Congress. He won three times. Meeting Teves for the first time makes one wonder how he became a politician.

By his own admission, he is a very shy person. He even married his first girlfriend. But having a senator for an uncle helped develop Teves's political savvy.

NEW LBP president packs a mean swing.

He stayed with his uncle, the late Senator Lorenzo Teves, for 10 years because his father was constantly traveling, while his mother passed away when he was six years old.

"I was like an adopted son and my aunt was my surrogate mom. My two sisters stayed with my *lola* in Dumaguete," he relates.

But Teves says his long-staying power in Congress may be due to the fact that he never kept promises but always worked at doing what his people asked him to do.

Back to the private sector

He served his congressional district for the maximum term of 12 years, after which he went back to private consultancy in 1998.

It was quite a surprise for him then when the former President Estrada asked him to go into a field he left over 30 years before. Estrada asked him to head LBP during the long plane ride from Los Angeles to Manila.

Although he tendered his resignation when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became president, then Finance Secretary (now executive secretary) Alberto Romulo told him the new President wanted him to stay on.

Teves admits that fitting into a banker's shoes is tough.

"It's rather tough considering that I am not really a banker. I am an economist and a policy-maker. I was not familiar with the operations of the bank so I relied on the operations people and the management team," he says.

He also relied on his experience in dealing with his constituents, since dealing with people remains an important part of his routine, just as much as handling finance.

When Teves was about to go to college, his father wanted him to become a businessman, which he never did.

Just as he came full circle in his career, he finds himself doing the same thing his father told him. His advice to his three children was 'Don't go into politics. Go into business.'

And ironically, Teves' dad was the one who took his place in Congress.

'Monay' makes . . .

(From page B1)

He is the overall supervisor of the baking operations while his wife Isidra supervises the store and takes care of the finances.

Two close relatives take turns helping them bake the famous buns.

Always hot

One important practice that Tenorio never stopped doing since 1969 is to sell or serve the "monay" buns hot and fresh from the oven.

To do this, the buns are baked in batches (by the hundreds or so). Since it takes only about 15 minutes to bake a batch, customers are always assured of hot "monay."

Tenorio stresses that the monay tastes best when it's hot.

The bakery crew and the whole staff are always on the watch for buses, jeepneys and private vehicles that pass through the highway, as the passengers are among their biggest and most regular clients.

They don't even have to deliver the bread to other outlets such as supermarkets because the passengers alone consume almost all of the bread.

"We give incentives (like free pieces of bread) to the bus drivers and conductors who usually facilitate their passengers' order to make the delivery of buns more orderly and quick," Tenorio says.

Peak selling days are December 24-25 and December 31-January 1. On these occasions, the employees work round the clock since many customers come from all over to place plenty of orders for the holidays.

Expansion

The demand for monay eventually became so high that the Tenorios had to expand the bakery and increase their output. They took out a P1-million loan in 1982 from a local bank, which did not hesitate to grant them the loan.

The bank's faith proved fruitful.

The Tenorios invested in better equipment and the bakery continued to do so well. They were able to pay off the loan and even had extra money to acquire more sophisticated baking equipment, allowing them to produce other bread products like cakes, for various occasions, assorted cookies, tasty bread and others.

Tenorio even showed the INQUIRER the four vehicles in the garage which, he said, they have acquired out of the bakery income. The two jeepneys were used to deliver bread to other areas but now the people themselves go to them to buy the bread.

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Voluntary Service Overseas is the world's largest independent volunteer programme, with 2,000 volunteers in 74 countries. VSO sends experienced, international volunteer professionals to assist in human development at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community organizations.

Around 40 volunteer professionals are currently working all over the Philippines in community-based natural resource management (e.g. marine biologists, agro-foresters, small enterprise) and gender-fair development (e.g. counselors, researchers, Deaf education)

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All of the following skills, experience and qualities are **absolutely essential** for this post. If you do not meet **every** requirement please do not to trouble yourself this time, and please keep VSOP in mind for future opportunities; thank you!:

The successful candidate will have experience in:

1. **People management:** three years minimum, and preferably six years or more...
2. **NGO project management** including budget setting and control, two years absolute minimum, preferably in both international and national human development NGOs.
3. **Social change** – personal involvement at a project or community level
4. **Experience outside the Philippines**, working and/or living.
5. **Word processing** and spreadsheet skills
6. **Development issues** – please demonstrate your knowledge and understanding
7. **Using management tools** to effectively run the programme and manage / develop staff
8. The successful candidate will have **Commitment to VSO's values** of human development through international volunteers
9. **and skills in...Communication:** strong oral and written English, and preferably Tagalog and Visayan. Able to demonstrate sensitivity in a cross-cultural context
10. **Team working** and relationship building
11. **Problem solving** in day to day and crisis situations
12. The successful candidate will have **Quick analytical ability** – both written and numerical, and to..
13. **Identify and analyse opportunities** that contribute to strategic aims
14. **Translate ideas and aims into practical plans...**
15. **Reflect, learn and act from** your own **experience** and that of the programme.
16. **Balance autonomy with accountability**
17. **Fundraise,** on the basis of experience, preferably with several international donors
18. **Make sound judgements** in a range of situations
19. **Travel** around 12 weeks away from home each year

The following are desirable:

20. Clean dr... cence and willingness to drive
21. Experie... ...stance management of programmes for the displaced, in emergencies or in high security areas (VSOP has an office in Iligan City which aims to meet the needs ... displaced people)
22. Work ... nce ... VSOP's key sectors of natural resource management or gender; or use of enterprise development or education skills in a rural setting.

If you do po... ...ss all of the 19 essential requirements, and are prepared to honour an initial three-year contract, please:

AA: Ensure that you ca... meet the following deadlines and interview date

Closing date:	By 10 September, please send 22 "evidence paragraphs" (see above)
First shortlist:	20 September – VSO to send application forms only to 15 shortlisted candidates
Return of forms:	1 October - 15 candidates to return forms
Interview Shortlist:	9 October VSO will inform 5 interview candidates
Interview Date:	19 October, all day, in Quezon City.
Start Date:	Handover January 2002 (negotiable)

BB: Send all your contact details for all dates between 10 September and 18 October.

CC: Send 22 "evidence paragraphs" which together demonstrate your experience, skills and qualities in a written submission of 5-10 lines against the 22 requirements / desirables:

Below is a fictional example of a fictional candidate:

1 **People management:** 1980-86; I set up and worked as Director of "Ecotourists!"; a small business in Bohol. 1983-86, I was Director and line-managed the three other managers (Finance, PR, and Projects). The company had 10 staff when I sold the business and took up a Manila-based post as Environment Manager in Eco-International NGO, whose HQ is in New York. In 1988 I became Director, with a Filipino staff of 20. Since 1996, I have been Director of "Forests for People" NGO, with a staff of 8.

2. **NGO project management:** All the above jobs have involved managing projects and budgets. The biggest is a current 3-year $2 M Ancestral Domain programme with FIP. I wrote the budget and narrative proposal, was awarded full funding from Agri Bank PLC, designed the consultations, M&E plans and implementation design, and appointed a Project Manager. I retain supervision of the budget, and am involved in key decisions.

3. **Commitment...** (etc, until point 22)

NB: In addition, you may choose to submit a curriculum vitae to which you can refer in the paragraphs. No cv will be accepted as an alternative to the paragraphs.

DD: Please send letter of application **marked confidential** to: **PD POST, VSO Philippines, No. 20 South Lawin Avenue corner Bacolod Road, PHILAM Homes, West Avenue, Quezon City, 1104**; email address "vso-phil@qinet.net". We expect to get 250-500 applications; please accept our apologies in advance that we will only reply to shortlisted candidates, and cannot extend deadlines or change the interview date.

Maraming salamat for your interest!

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The SMART officer is responsible for planning and implementation of store marketing projects and activities that will: a) increase store sales and b) make service to our customers more personalized. For the position, we need a college graduate, preferably in Mass Communication, Marketing, Management, or any related discipline. He or she should be creative and outgoing, and should possess good human relations and above-average oral and written communication skills.

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Qualifications:

- Male 25 to 35 years old
- A graduate of any engineering course at least 3 years work experienced (preferably in aviation industry)
- Trustworthy and hardworking
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision
- Willing to work on a shift basis
- Computer literate with excellent reporting skills
- Knowledge in Occupational Safety and Health Standards

All interested applicants may send the following requirements: Resumé with 2x2 picture, Transcript of Records to:

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8526-1 Juanita de Leon St., Sucat, Parañaque City

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- Preferably with knowledge on electrical & mechanical (Air-con) works
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- 10 years of experience

Mail to:

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Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
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Department of Agriculture
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E-mail cascade_erp@hotmail.com

Invitation for Expressions of Interest

Local Technical Assistants/Specialists in
Organizational Development & Management (ODM)
Small irrigation and Village Water Supply Operations & Maintenance (O&M)
Rural Groups Financial System Development

In the scope of its Group Strengthening Programme, CASCADE is currently seeking three Specialists in the field of Organizational Development and Management: Small Irrigation and Village Water Supply Systems and Rural Groups Financial System Development. CASCADE is operating in the uplands of Nueva Vizcaya, Benguet and Nueva Ecija.

Applications are invited from qualified candidates with highly relevant experience on Group Strengthening in relation to rural infrastructure (small irrigation and village water supply systems) management and operations specifically in the areas of organizational development and management (ODM), operations and maintenance (O&M) and financial systems development. All TAs should be physically fit and capable of working in the field in remote areas.

Expressions of interest together with full CVs and other pertinent documents in support of the application for the above mentioned areas of specialization should be submitted no later than August 24, 2001. Only qualified candidates will receive an acknowledgement and be given the full Terms of Reference (TOR).

CASCADE is an equal opportunity employer and actively encourages women to apply.

All correspondence should be addressed to the following:

THE PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS
DA-CASCADE
Bonfal West, 3700 Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
Tel. No. (078) 321-2605 & 321-4128
Tel. / Fax. (078) 321-3611
Email: cascade_erp@hotmail.com

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Former President,
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Negotiating Your Way to Success (Effective Negotiating Techniques)
Ernie Cecilia
1999 President, Personnel Management Association of the Philippines
August 29 (Wednesday)

Achieving Your Personal Vision in Troubled Times (Effective Career Planning & Management)
Tita Datu Puangco
President,
Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting
August 30 (Thursday)

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Venue: Makati Sports Club, L. P. Leviste St. (formerly Alfaro St.), cor. Gallardo St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Registration fee per seminar: Professionals-P300, Students-P150, For first 100 registrants-P225, One free ticket for every group of 5, Six free tickets for every group of 15. Fee includes handouts, certificate of completion and snacks.

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We have recently reorganized our business units to form the Branded Food Group comprising of Processed/Canned Meat Products (under the Swift Brand), Flour-based products (under the brands White King, Fiesta pasta and Butterfresh margarine), and Non-Carbonated Beverages (Selecta Moo Milk, Sunkist Juice and Aqua Mineral Water).

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BRAND MANAGERS (BM)

- Will be responsible for defining their brands' vision, developing brand-building programs, and the achievement of their respective brands' annual top and bottomline business objectives (sales volumes, market share and profitability).
- Male/Female, below 30 years of age, graduate of Marketing Management, Business Administration, Economics or Business-related degrees from a reputable university.
- Minimum 3 years experience in classic, blue-chip FMCG marketing, with competence in managing all elements of the marketing mix {formulation of brand positioning, development of new product/package innovations, market research techniques and business analysis, marketing plan preparation, pricing strategy formulation/ P&L responsibility, advertising and communications development (copy, media & PR), conceptualization & implementation of consumer promotions & in-store display/merchandising; & exposure to FMCG selling and distribution operations}
- Ideal candidates should possess/demonstrated strengths in the following qualities-
  - Analytical/Problem-Solving, Strategic and Innovative Thinking Skills
  - Leadership and Interpersonal Skills for Working with Interdisciplinary Teams
  - Diligent & Results-Oriented, Driven by a "Make-it-Happen" Mentality
  - Passion for Excellence + Winning Attitude to Succeed in a Dynamic Environment
  - Excellent Oral and Written Communication Skills

LOGISTICS MANAGER (LM)

- Responsible for the efficient coordination of production planning and physical distribution of products to direct customers and distributors
- Develop and maintain a cost effective delivery system to trade customers
- Must have at least 5 years managerial experience, a keen eye for ways to improve operations, and maintenance of product quality from the production plants to the customers.
- Computer literate

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER (RSM)

- Minimum 5 years Sales Management experience in a consumer-retail business
- Can lead, train and organize SALES team to perform at optimum level
- Able to conceptualize & implement strategic directions to revolutionize selling and distribution responsibilities.
- A ready counselor and motivator
- Set sound Business Strategies that will translate to profitable operations
- Computer literate with minimum exposure to e2e, 2b2 transactions.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

AREA SALES MANAGER (ASM)

- Minimum 3 years SALES Supervisory experience preferably with ex-truck background
- Can handle various trade channel and distribution models
- Knowledgeable in Computers and other on-line transactions
- Has adequate operational audit and control skills
- With track record in training and development of subordinates
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

KEY ACCOUNTS MANAGERS (KAM)

- Minimum 3 years exposure in retail business handling Major Supermarkets
- Knowledgeable in Category & Space Management, ICO and Week supply objectives
- Able to design & create Field Activated & other Business Building programs
- Articulate
- Powerful negotiator and program innovator
- Computer-literate

R & D RESEARCHER (RDR)

- BS Food Tech graduate
- Minimum of 2 years actual R & D experience in handling flour based products, ingredients or flavors, pasta or related products
- Responsible for product development which includes formulation, cost analysis, technology transfer, establishment of standards & specifications, storage/ stability test and sensory evaluation
- Computer literate
- Patient, honest, assertive

DISTRIBUTOR MANAGERS (DM)

- 3 years experience in handling third party Selling & Distribution outfit
- Proven track record in field sales will be an advantage
- Trainable and willing to spend long hours in field/trade activities
- Capable of planning, leading, organizing and controlling medium to large scale-distributor business
- Honest and of good moral standing
- Willing to be based anywhere in the Philippines
- With basic computer skills

SALES TRAINING SUPERVISOR (STS)

- Minimum 2 years field sales experience and another year in Sales Training
- Creative, innovative and with standing person-to-person inter-action skills
- Street-smart with a very strong personality a must
- Articulate
- Can develop basic training programs from field SALES situational needs-analysis
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

FIELD SUPERVISORS (FS)

- 2 years experience in supervising deli personnel and merchandisers in all trade-retail channels
- Can develop field activated or trade marketing initiated programs in a localized store or area setting
- Background in computers a plus factor
- Communication-Negotiation skills a must

ROUTE & BOOKING SALESMEN (RBS)

- 2 years experience in a distribution blitz/consumer-retail selling
- Holder of Professional Drivers license a plus factor
- Hardworking, tireless, diligent and very persistent
- computer literate
- Can post Surety BOND
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

MERCHANDISING ASSET COORDINATOR (MA)

- Track record in Planning and Control
- Knowledgeable in Computer systems
- Well-rounded experience in systems/program analysis
- Can generate reports/correspondences for SALES Management reference

THESE ARE URGENT REQUIREMENTS. Respondents are requested to send their resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 picture to e-mail address **recruitment@rfm.com.ph** or to the address below. Please indicate code of position applied for on the envelope. **We shall respond to qualified candidates ONLY.** Previous applicants need not apply.

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DATE	:	September 8, 2001 (Saturday) 12.00 NOON
VENUE	:	DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO (TANGUILE ROOM, 2nd FLOOR), AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY
TEL. NO.	:	891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 to 21
FEES	:	P 700 PREPAID / P 900 WALK-IN
	CEBU	
DATE	:	September 11,2001 (Tuesday) 6.30 P.M.
VENUE	:	WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL SALINAS DRIVE, LAHUG, CEBU CITY
TEL.NO.	:	(032) 255 6673 TO 74; 254 2495, 254 2684; 256 3872 TO 73
FEES	:	P 700 PREPAID/P 900 WALK-IN
	DAVAO	
DATE	:	September 13, 2001 (Thursday) 6.30 P.M.
VENUE	:	MARCO POLO HOTEL, C.M. Recto St., Davao City
TEL. NO.	:	(082) 222-1351 to 52 // 222-2710 to 11
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BUTUAN CITY
Date : August 25, 2001 (Sat.) 10:00 AM
Venue : HOTEL KARAGA
Montilla Boulevard., Butuan City
Contact Person : Aileen Duque
Tel Nos. : (085) 341 4338, (0918) 476 4041
Fees : P650 Prepaid, P850 Walk in

ILOILO CITY
Date : September 1, 2001 (Sat.) 2:00 PM
Venue : AMIGO TERRACE HOTEL
Iznart Delgado Sts. Iloilo City
Contact Person : INS MIS @ RM 210
Magdalena Commercial Center, J.M. Basa St., Iloilo City.
Tel Nos. : (033) 508 7143 508 7137, 336 1883
Fees : P650 Prepaid P850 Walk in

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Date : September 1, 2001 (Sat.) 2:00 PM
Venue : DYNASTY COURT HOTEL
Tiano Hayes Sts., Cagayan de Oro City
Contact Person INS MIS@ 2nd Floor R.M. Building
Abejuela St., Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. : (088) 856 2715, (08822) 729 026; 729-416
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August 22, 2001 (Wed.) 9:00 AM-5:00 PM • Call: INS MIS @ 2/F Consuelo Building, M.H. Del Pilar St., Dagupan City • (075) 522-7828; 515-4573; 515-2715; (0918) 910-2594

LEGAZPI CITY
August 22, 2001 (Wed.) 9:00 AM-5:00 PM • Contact Person: Amy Malliarte • Call: INS OFFICE @ Legazpi Shopping Mall, Stall 0-3 Rizal St., Old Albay District, Legazpi City • (052) 820 6168; 245 5641; 480 3946

LAOAG CITY
August 22, 2001 (Wed.) 9:00 AM-5:00 PM • Contact Person: Analyn Dayag • Call: INS OFFICE @ 28 MC BUILDING, Barangay 13 General Segundo Avenue, Laoag City • (077) 771-3310; (0918) 910 2994

CEBU CITY
August 22, 2001 (Wed.) 9:00 AM-5:00 PM • Call: INS MIS @ Rm. 205 A. Gason Bldg., D. Jakosalem St., Cebu City • (032) 255 6073 to 74; 254 2495; 256 3872 to 73; 254 2684

DAVAO
August 22, 2001 (Wed.) 9:00 AM-5:00 PM • Call: INS MIS @ Unit 14 2/F Carlos Villa Abrille, Bldg. 10, JP Laurel Ave., Davao City • (082) 222-1351 to 52; 222-2710 to 11

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CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Date : September 1, 2001 (Sat.) 2 PM
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MOTOR VEHICLES - TOYOTA CORONA 2 0 Ex-Saloon w/ CD Changer White-UBM-409 (1996). TOYOTA CROWN Super Saloon 2.0i-TSR 569 (1995); NISSAN Pick-Up w/ Crew Cab Grey-UBS-516; MITSUBISHI Pick-Up-TSM-573; NISSAN Pick-Up-UBS 396; TAMARAW FX Grey-UBP 659 (1995); TOYOTA Forklift 2 Tons Cap.

MACHINE TOOLS - Generator 75 KVA GM Engine; Compressor 300 CFM Diesel GM; Hydraulic Press 175-200 ton cap. Press m/c; RES 29" Throat Vertical Band Saw Model 3Z990 12"; Horizontal Bandsaw; SULLAIR Model LS10-30H AC-DC Compressor 115/125 PSIG; BUER IK 930-500 PSIG Compressor 1991; B&D Pistol Drills; BOSCH & MAKITA Angle Grinders; Hammer Drills; Circular Saws; Double Ended Grinder; Chain Blocks; ENDO 100kg. Cap. Check Weights; 15" Portable Bending Roll; SANO Portable Drill Press; Gas Welding Equipment; Tool Boxes; BROOK CROMPTON Electric Vibrators; Pressure Washer m/c, (2) IKUNO Power Press m/cs; (1) KUBAYASHI Power Press; OKAMOTO Surface Grinder; EDN m/c (Japan); AMADA 5" Throat Vertical Bandsaw, etc.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS - Imported Sala Sets, Wooden Cabinets; Dinning Tables; Pedestal Drawers; Entertainment Centre Cabinets; Wooden Dining Table & Chairs; Assld. Sizes Beds & Mattresses; Centre & Corner Tables; Rattan Furnitures; Refrigerators; Colored TV Sets; Electric Fans; Framed Wall Decorations, Assld. Wooden Headboards; etc.

OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - COMPAQ 486 SX Computer; SVG Monitors; IBM Electric Typewrite; Automatic Volt Regulator; Safety Vaults; High Back Executive Chairs; Fabric Upholstered Clerical Chairs; Office Chairs; Computer & Office Tables; Drafter RESA-G Drafting Table; 4 Draw Steel Filing Cabinet, Pedestal Drawer; Vertical Venetian Blinds; etc.

CANDY MANUFACTURING MACHINERY-BOSCH 27-D Creame Filler; (4) LATINI DPS-1 Candy Former; (2) HANSELLA HWR-V Batch Cooker; Savage Caramel Cooker; Candy Crushers; Candy Coolers; Metal Detector Conveyor; Assld. Feed/Cooling Conveyors; HERSHY Wafer Cutter; etc.

CANDY WRAPPING MACHINERY-SIG Bunch Wrappers; ROSE FOREGROVE Twist Wrapping Machine; WELLHAND SP202BS-C Vertical Weigher Bagger; AQUARIUS ATL2 Lollipop Wrapper; AUTOWRAP Verso Row 247; Pillow Wrapper, SIG, OTTO HANSEL Bunch Wrappers, etc.

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENTS - BUNN-O-MATIC Coffee Maker; CRATHCO Juice Dispenser; FRYMASTER Deep Pot Fryer; HEINRICH Holdog Chiller; French Fries Warmer, Holdog Hutch; etc.

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AT:HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER
Bldg. #7 VRCC Road, Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila
ON: Thursday, 23rd August 2001 at 10:30am Prompt
ON VIEW: Wednesday, 22nd August 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
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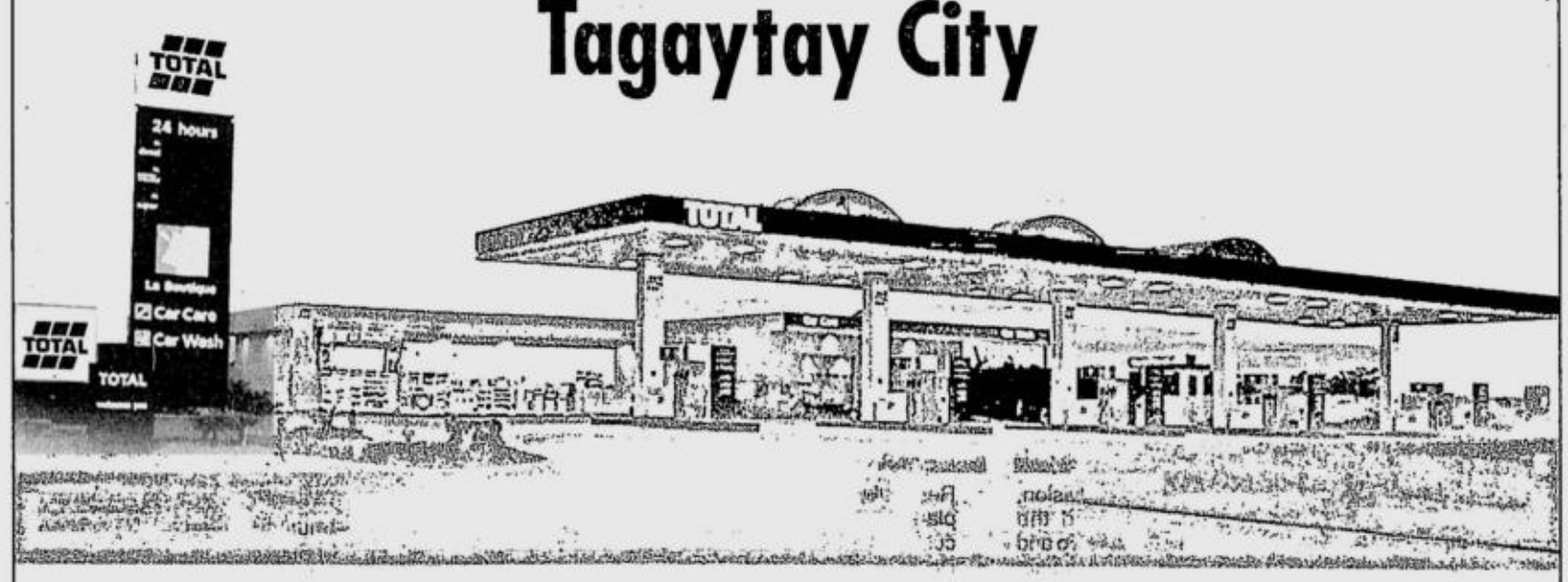

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We're also looking for dealers who are willing to invest their time, a small parcel of land and some money in our dream.

We invite you to attend the applicants' orientation on **August 29, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the 30th Floor, Urban Bank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.**

Call TOTALFINAELF PHILIPPINES CORPORATION and look for Ms. Cheen de Mesa of the Retail Division at (02) 849-0701 or Mr. Frazer Aleta at 0918-9092116 for confirmation of attendance.

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SEALED BID SALE of used US government-owned household and office furniture, appliances, office machines and gym equipment on an "As-Is-Where-Is" basis.

The property may be inspected at the disposal warehouse, Seafront Compound, US Embassy, F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (across Pasay City Hall) on August 20-22, 2001 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3:30 PM. Bids, accompanied by a cash deposit of at least 20% of the bid price, will be accepted during the inspection dates at the GSO Cashier located at Seafront Compound.

Please be advised that there is no vehicle access or parking available on Seafront Compound. Pedestrian access will be limited to F.B. Harrison gate only.

For particulars, please contact:

Ms. Hilda M. Legaspi
Tel. No. 523-1001 extn. 2702

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines

MEMORANDUM

ADHOC COMMITTEE FOR PICC PROJECTS

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and if later found eligible/qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title	:	Landscaping Works along PICC Perimeter Fence
Scope of Work	:	Work includes furnishing of materials, labor, plant, tools, equipment and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed Landscaping Works for the PICC Complex, all in accordance with the specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location	:	PICC Complex, Pasay City
Approved Budget	:	Pesos One Million Six Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty (P1,658,520.00)
Source of Funding	:	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)		
PCAB License Classification		IAC Category Small (Park, Playground and Recreational Work)
Contractor's Construction Experience in Similar Project	:	Have completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) landscaping projects each costing at least two (2) Million Pesos preferably on landscape construction and/or development for commercial and institutional buildings requiring high end finishes and excellent workmanship of financial institutions, hotels and commercial establishment and other of similar or greater complexity.
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't.	:	Pesos One Hundred Seventy Thousand (P170,000.00).
Prequalification/Eligibility Statement Forms		
Cost of Forms		Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance		August 07 to 22, 2001 / 9:30 AM to 12:00 NN & 1:30 PM to 400 PM
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility/Statement		AHCPP Secretariat Rm. 204 (Tel No. 524-7011 local 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Documents		
Deadline of Submission		August 28, 2001 / 4:00 PM
Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility		
Date and Time of Issuance		September 24, 2001 / 9:30 AM to 12:00 NN & 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Place of Issuance		AHCPP Secretariat Rm. 204
Bid/Tender Documents	:	Shall be issued only to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance		Five Thousand Pesos per set (5,000.00/set) AHCPP Secretariat Rm. 204
Date and Time of Issuance		September 24 to 26, 2001 / 9:30 AM to 12:00 NN & 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Pre-bid Conference		
Date and Time		October 1, 2001 / 9:30 AM
Venue		BMD Conference Room/2nd Floor - Five Storey Building, BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids		
Deadline/Venue of Submission		October 18, 2001 / 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM / AHCPP Secretariat Room 204

BID OPENING WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Schedule for issuance of notice of eligibility/ineligibility up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MBM JUAN QUINTOS, JR.
AHCPP - Co-Chairman

(Sgd.) MBM VICENTE B. VALDEPENAS, JR.
AHCPP - Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 7 & 19. 2001)

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg. Ortigas Avenue, Cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 7221144 - 7221155 • E-mail: info@poea.org.ph
Website: www.poea.org.ph

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No. 009-01

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration is inviting all interested janitorial agencies to a public bidding for the janitorial service contract for POEA.

Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to 2½% of the total contract price in the form of Cash, Cashier's or Manager's Check, or Surety Bond callable on demand issued by the GSIS or insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commissioner, or a combination thereof.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

1. Issuance of Application for Eligibility Forms and Bid/Tender Documents/ Instructions to Bidders - **August 9-29, 2001**
2. Pre-Bid Conference - **August 31, 2001** / 2:30 p.m.
3. Submission, Receipt and opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes - **September 7, 2001** / 2:30 p.m.

The POEA neither assumes any obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The POEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof without offering any reason, to waive any formalities or defects therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government. All awards by the Bids and Awards Committee are subject to the final approval of the POEA Administrator.

(Sgd.) **LORNA O. FAJARDO**
Deputy Administrator

(PDI - Aug 12 & 19, 2001)

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Successful purchasers must provide the following documentation in order to participate in the bidding.
(i) Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) or Certificate of Non-Coverage
(ii) City/Municipal Permit
(iii) Sanitary Permit

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Sama-Sama sa DECS

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all manufacturers of Albendazole for the bidding of 300,000 Tablets of Albendazole (generic 400 mg/tablet) for the deworming of pre-elementary and selected Grade I pupils who will be beneficiaries of the supplementary feeding program during school year 2001-2002 under the Health and Nutrition Center Deworming Project. The approve budget for the project is P 2,700,000.00.

All interested manufacturers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **August 20** to **30, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS website at *http://www.decs.gov.ph*.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **Sept. 04, 2001,** 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **September 11, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI – Aug. 19 & 20, 2001)

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg. Ortigas Avenue, Cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 4061, Manila/Fax#722-1159, 7221161, 7221154
Website address: http://www.agila.com/poea
E-mail address: poea_adm@compass.com.ph
poea_edp@compass.com.ph
Tel. 722-1142 to 99

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO. 008-01

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) is inviting all interested parties/vendors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the POEA LRO Agency Profile and Case Monitoring System.

Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to 2-1/2% of the total contract price in the form of Cash, Cashier's or Manager's Check, or surety bond callable on demand issued by the GSIS or insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commissioner, or a combination thereof.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

1. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	**Aug. 26-30, 2001**
2. Submission of Eligibility Documents	**Aug. 27-30, 2001**
3. Issuance of Tender Forms (upon Payment of non-refundable fee of P50.00)	**August 30, 2001**
4. Pre-bid Conference	**August 31, 2001**
5. Submission/Opening of Bids	**September 05, 2001**

The POEA neither assumes any obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The POEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof without offering any reason, to waive any formalities or defects therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the government. All awards by the Bids And Awards Committee are subject to the final approval of the POEA Administrator.

(Sgd.) **CAROLINA G. DE LEON**
Director II and Officer-in-Charge
Management Services

(PDI – Aug. 19, 2001)

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Our Dear INAY (LOLA LUCING)

LUISA BERBA vda. De MONTALBO

Batangas City

Died in the Grace of our Lord and joined her beloved husband Dr. Jose M. Montalbo on August 17, 2001 at the age of 96.

Her bereaved children: **Zelda** (†), **Dr. Rodolfo** (‡) & **Socorro, Marissa & Mayo, Bing & Marilou, Oyet & Gloria, Gina, Boni & Linda Ebron, Denise, Recardo & Lorna, Rona & Petri, Rhea, Joel & Kelly, Onofre** (†) & **Aida, Norman & Jane, Sandra** and **Kathy, Cleofe, Lino & Delza Diaz, Liezl, Lilian & Lara**; Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Great Great Grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lies in state at Basilica Mortuary in Batangas City. Interment will be on August 21, 2001 at Eternal Garden, Batangas City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

"My soul finds rest in God alone; from Him comes my salvation"
Psalms 62:2

OUR DEARLY BELOVED FATHER

RICARDO CORONEL DIMAYUGA

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on August 18, 2001 at the age of 73.

His loving wife **Leticia**; children and children-in-law **Mildred, Beverly** and **Roy Dision, Pamela** and **Andrew Abad, Agnes, Rafael, Gabriel** and **Theresa, Isabel**; and grandchildren **Raphael Philip** and **Angela**; brothers and sisters Antonio, Celestino, **Romeo, Celso** (†), **Lilia, Leticia, Milagros, Amparo, Jesusa**; and dear relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 23, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

MASSES FOR

ISIDRA ATIENZA-CUEVAS

May 7, 1917 - August 19, 1991

1. **National Shrine of the Sacred Heart** ... August 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. San Antonio Village, Makati City
2. **St. John Bosco Parish Church** ..... August 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. Pasay Road, Makati City
3. **St. Alphonsus Mary De Ligouri** ..... August 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. Magallanes Village, Makati City
4. **St. Andrew, The Apostle Parish** ..... August 19, 2001, 10:30 a.m. N. Garcia Street, Bel-Air, Makati City
5. **Sanctuario De San Antonio** ..... August 19, 2001, 10:30 a.m. Forbes Park, Makati City
6. **Colegio San Agustin Chapel** ..... August 19, 2001, 10:00 a.m. Dasmariñas Village, Makati City
7. **San Isidro Church** ..... August 10, 2001, 6:00 a.m. Taft Avenue, Pasay City
8. **San Ildefonso Church** ..... August 19, 2001, 9:30 a.m. Pio del Pilar, Makati City
9. **Sta. Rita Parish Church** ..... August 19, 2001, 6:30 p.m. Philam Homes, Quezon City
10. **Prince of Peace Catholic Church** ..... August 19, 2001, 6:30 a.m. Plano, Texas, USA
11. **St. Ignatius Loyola Church** ..... August 18, 2001, 9:00 a.m. Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
12. **St. Francis of Assissi Church** ..... August 20, 2001, 7:30 a.m. Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
13. **St. Maria Goretti Church** ..... August 19, 2001, 9:00 a.m. Madison, Wisconsin, USA
14. **St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church** ..... August 21, 2001, 6:00 p.m. Plano, Texas, USA

NORA ESTABAYA SUZUKI

November 02, 1968 - August 14, 2001

Husband of **Hiromasa Suzuki**; daughter of **Mr. Gregorio Estabaya, Sr.** (†) and **Caridad Lagarde Estabaya**; brother **Jhun, Andy, Ronnie** and **Eddie**; sister **Antonia, Ligaya, Vilma** and **Edna**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 23, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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JOSE "RITZI" S. ALTAVAS III

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 17, 2001 at the age of 61.

His wife **Yoli**; children **Dax, Lee Christine** and **Cale**; his mother **Conchita**; sister **Vicki & Nels**; brothers **Jackie & Añing** and **Galen & Cess**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence in Baybay Beach, Roxas City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 21, 2001, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Metropolitan Cathedral, Roxas City.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Eternal loving memory on the First Death Anniversary of

CARMEN H. FELIPE-CERVANTES

Who died on August 19, 2000

Masses will be said today at:
8:30 a.m. ..... St. Benedict Joseph Labre Church, Richmond Hill, NY
11:00 a.m. ..... Immaculate Conception Church, Naga City
5:00 p.m. ..... Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City

Her children, **Lito & Cecile, Nino & Annie, Leny & Boy, Danny & Juliet** and **Ronnie** request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

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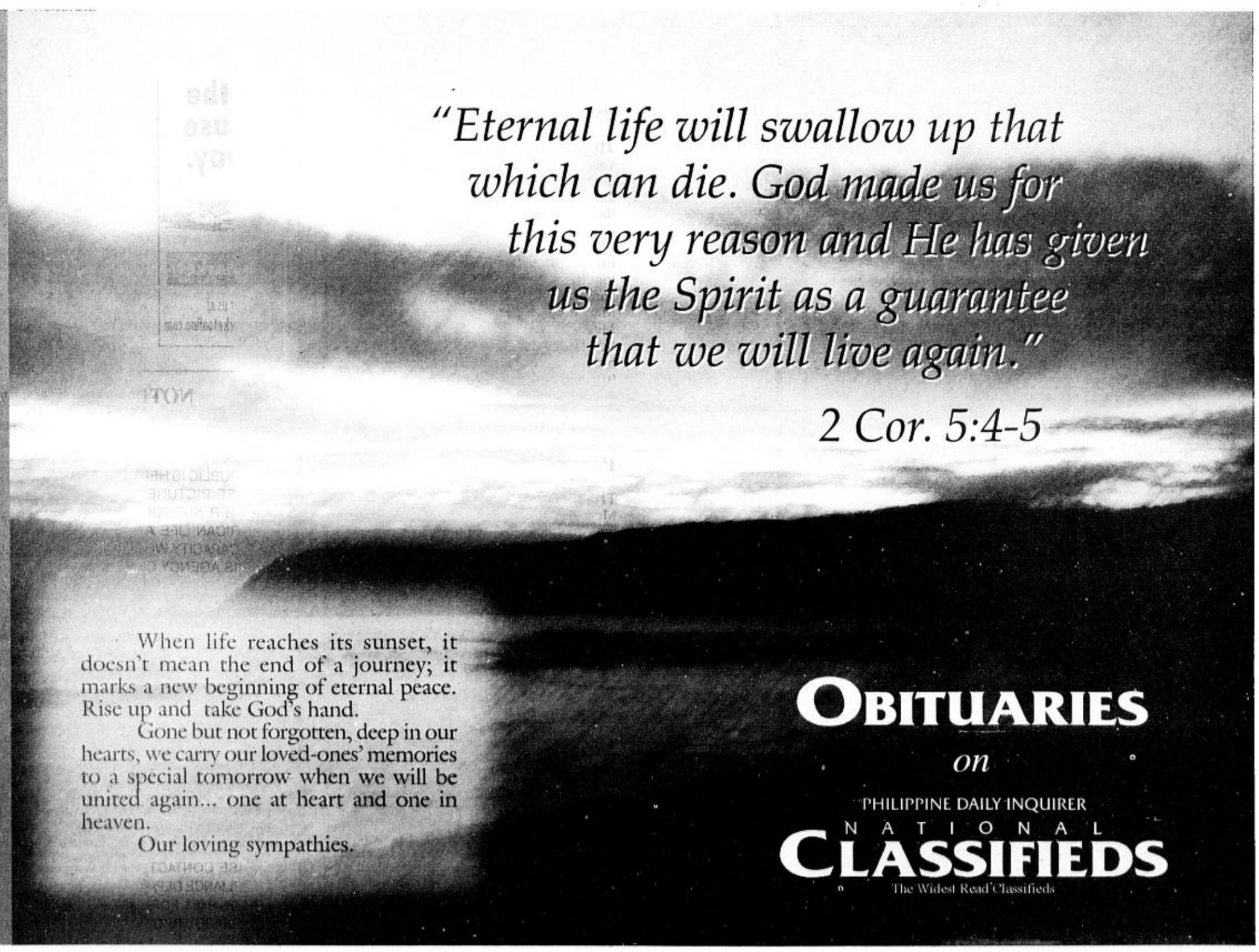

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Further, this is to inform our subscribers and the general public that we do not have an employee directly or indirectly in the name of **RONALD BALUYOT**. He is an "**IMPOSTOR**" and also using the following aliases: **NESTOR ABELARDO, ABELARDO OR RONALD BALUYOT, RONALDO BARTULAZO, HERNANDO BULAONG, RONALD RAMONES, NESTOR OR DESTOR REGALADO**. The public is hereby warned on the "**illegal activity**" of this person. His real name is **FERNANDO M. BALANGON** whose known address is Area I, EPT B35 L3, Poblacion 3, GMA, Cavite. Below is his photo:

Any information on him should be reported to us.

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(PDI – Aug. 19, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - CARFU
Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project
Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City
Tele/Fax Nos. 444-7994, 444-8329
PO Box 1158
E-Mail: charm@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank in various currencies toward the cost of the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM) Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds including GOP funds to eligible payment under the contract for which this Invitation to Pre-Qualify and to Bid the following:
   a. Provision of Satellite Images and Services
2. Requirements for Pre-Qualification:
   a. Letter of Intent
   b. Detailed Profile of the Firm
   c. Business Permit/Clearances
   d. DTI Registration
   e. Latest Income Tax Return
   f. Latest Financial Statement
   g. VAT/Non-VAT Registration
3. Issuance of Guidelines for Pre-Qualification shall be on **August 27, 2001**.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at the Project Support Office of CHARM Project, Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City at telephone numbers (074) 444-7994, (074) 444-8329 and SPCMAD, Room 302, Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Dillman, Quezon City at telephone numbers (02) 927-9636 to 39.
5. Submission of Pre-Qualification papers should not be later than **5:00 PM** on **September 3, 2001** at CHARM PSO, Baguio City. Invitation to bid shall be issued to shortlisted firms on **September 17, 2001**.

   Bid documents will be available to pre-qualified or shortlisted firms on **September 19, 2001** and a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **September 21, 2001, 2:00 PM** at the CHARM PSO Conference Room and the Opening of Bids will be on **October 5, 2001, 2:00 PM** at CHARM PSO Conference Room.
6. Bidders bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of cash or cashier's/manager's check must be submitted together with the bid.
7. CHARM Project reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Project.

(Sgd.) **EDMUND J. SANA**
DA Assistant Secretary and SPBAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 18, 19 & 21, 2001)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
8th Floor DENR by the Bay Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Phils.
☎ 5219421*5219463*5226632*5227531*5227529*5227533
*5227528*5244189*5244203*5244205*5244184
Fax No. 5219466

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND SUBMIT PROPOSALS

The Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC) invites interested parties in the harvesting/extraction by way of sanitation cutting of all standing dead and diseased falcata trees to pre-qualify and submit proposals for the 8.47 hectare plantation area with an estimated total volume of 500.51 cubic meters located at Cayamcam, Tungawan, Zamboanga del Sur. Interested parties are required to submit the following requirements at the NRDC, 9/F 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila:

1. Certified copy of the Certificate of Registration of Business Name with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Certificate of Registration with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC);
2. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws or Articles of Co-partnership;
3. List of Names of Current Stockholders/Partners and Directors of the Corporation/Partnership as certified by the Corporate and/or Board Secretary;
4. A valid Wood Processing Plant Permit and/or Log Dealer's Permit and Log Supply Agreement;
5. Duly notarized Board Resolution as duly certified by the Corporate Secretary authorizing the official representative(s) of the Company to transact business in behalf of the Company;
6. Duly Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years; and
7. List of subsidiaries and sister companies as duly notarized and certified by the Corporate Board Secretary.

Deadline for the submission of the above pre-qualification requirements shall be at the close of office hours on **August 28, 2001**.

Bidders shall be notified on the results of the pre-qualification evaluation after which they shall be provided with project prospectus on the technical details in the preparation of Technical and Financial Proposal including the indicative Plan. The project prospectus, rules on bidding procedures and other pertinent information shall be acquired by pre-qualified applicants upon payment of P2,000.00 non-refundable application fee.

Pre-qualified applicants must be able to prove their track record of experience, technical and financial capability to perform the works/services called for. The deadline for the submission of the Technical and Financial Proposal shall be at the close of office hours on **September 6, 2001**. Pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **September 13, 2001**, 10:00 AM at the NRDC Conference Room.

Qualified bidders must submit their sealed bids on or before the Opening of Bid on **September 14, 2001**, 10:00 AM, same venue.

Automatic rebidding will be conducted on **September 20, 2001** in case of failure in bidding due to insufficient number of participating bidders, non-complying bids, etc.

For further clarification, interested parties may inquire at the NRDC Office through telephone numbers 521-9421, 521-9463, 522-6632, 522-7531 and 522-7529.

The NRDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any formalities in connection thereto and accept such bids it may consider as most advantageous to the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. DIOGENES S. FERREZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Digitel-Shell: big leaps for progress

TEN years ago, Digitel entered the payphone business with the inauguration of its first public calling offices. At present, Digitel has over 11,000 payphones scattered all over Luzon, playing a vital role in the lives of individuals and enterprises in the rural communities.

Now, Digitel joins hands with a formidable ally – Pilipinas Shell. The agreement between these two companies has been formalized through a contract signing ceremony held within the first quarter of the year.

Digitel invests heavily on its payphone service and has big plans for it this year Digitel intends to carry out the installation of an additional 5,000 more payphone units in areas in need of them. "As a telecom service provider, this agreement is important to us because it will enable Digitel to further carry out its mission to provide telecommunications services to the people of Luzon. With their strategically located retail outlets, Pilipinas Shell is an ideal partner in helping Digitel achieve its mission," says Digitel senior executive vice president Johnson Go. "In spite of our efforts, there are still many areas that are waiting for its first payphone to service the telecommunications needs of a community. More than any other carrier, Digitel has invested heavily in its payphones service so, all over Luzon, you will see Digitel payphones in more locations both in urbanized and remote areas, just like the Shell gasoline stations." This partnership will also enable Digitel to install payphones in more than 400 Shell retail outlets all over Luzon and launch several of Digitel's marketing programs, some of which are now ongoing.

"This is a win-win-win situation," according to Pilipinas Shell's IT division head, Edison Sia. The partnership has three aspects: first, Digitel will be able to utilize Pilipinas Shell's vast network through supplying payphones in Shell stations in various strategic locations and, at the same time, provide telecommunications services to Shell's customers; second, Shell stations shall make available other Digitel communication products and services; and lastly, Digitel shall provide Pilipinas Shell with its 1-800 toll free service which will link all Shell stations throughout Luzon. Through this toll-free service, dealers within Luzon will be able to connect to Pilipinas Shell's head office for free by calling Shell's 1-800 dealer hotline. The partnership, without a doubt, works for the mutual benefit of both companies – it makes the realization of both their goals a whole lot simpler, if not effortless. It is not unthinkable, however, that these two companies have joined hands and combined their efforts, both of them being committed to the same principles: service and progress. It is, as Sia had said, a synergy – a harmonious combination and cooperation between partners who endeavor to answer the needs and serve the interests of the community via faster and efficient delivery thereof.

One small step at a time, Digitel continues to more towards the realization of its goal: to provide telecommunications services to the people of Luzon and eventually, to the people of the Philippines. clearly, this venture with Pilipinas Shell is another step towards the same direction. Now, with a partner like Pilipinas Shell, Digitel's small steps will be big leaps for progress.

FIL-CHINESE BRING RELIEF

The Phil-Chinese Charitable Association (PCCA) and the Fil-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce (FCGCCI) recently conducted relief operations for typhoon victims in eight towns of Pangasinan. Shown are (from left) Dr. James G. Dy, PCCA chair and president with lawyer Gonzalo Duque, Evangeline Dorao (Rotary Club of Uptown Dagupan) and Benjie Lim, mayor of Dagupan City, distributing relief goods in Dagupan City.

JITSE-PHIL JOINS E-SERVICES PHILIPPINES

The Japanese Information Technology Standard Examination of the Philippines (Jitse-Phil), a certification program for Filipino IT students and practitioners, participated in the recent e-Services Philippines, a grand showcase of Filipino IT talent and e-commerce capability. Jitse-Phil put up an information counter (shown above) at the e-Services venue to attend to inquiries about the certification program and make it easier for IT students and practitioners to apply for the exam. The Jitse-Phil pilot test will be held on Sept. 9 in separate testing sites at the University of the Philippines in Diliman and at the University of San Carlos in Cebu. For more information, call 813-6398 or 759-3870 or visit its website www.jitse.ph and www.itfp.ph.

BITS Clips

PMA trade exhibit

THE LATEST products, advanced technologies and most unique services will be showcased in a Trade and Consumer Exhibit from Aug. 20 to 23 at the Glorietta Activity Area. The event is organized by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) as part of its annual National Marketing Week celebration. The exhibit brings together entrepreneurs and businessmen from various industries such as Club Panoly Resort, Marigold Commodities, Belrewmond Trading, Mega Cellular, Oriental and Motolite, SSI Schaefer Systems, WG&A Superferry, Semicon, Vicma Marketing, Xtreme Innovators and more. For inquiries and more information, call the PMA Secretariat at 893-7127 and 8923144, or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

PSCM's 16th confab

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Cutaneous Medicine Inc. will hold its 16th annual convention on Aug. 25 to 26 at Shangri-La Hotel. The PSCM annual convention, in participation with the International Society of Dermatology has the theme titled: "Dermatology: Insights and Innovations". Eight foreign speakers were invited to profound on the subject. Registration is ongoing and for more information, call PSCM Secretariat at 524-5296 and 524-4724 and look for Anna Marquez and Nanette Grafilo.

KC Maharlika installation

THE OFFICERS for Columbian Year 2001-2002 of the Knights of Columbus, Maharlika Assembly ACN 1881, 4th Degree, Ferdinand Magellan Province, will be installed into office on Sunday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Sta. Rita Parish, Rectory Building, Philam Homes, Quezon City. Installing Officer and guest speaker is Ishmael Q. Calata, District Master of the 4th Degree, Faithful Friar Msgr. Milo C. Vergara will officiate in the special mass, with songs to be rendered by the SPB Council 6116 choir. Emcees of the program are Cres Odulio and Bert Nanquil.

ERRATUM

In the ad of Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC), published in this paper yesterday, August 18, 2001 regarding the Invitation to Pre-qualify and Submit Proposals was inadvertently omitted the last five paragraphs and the signatory of the ad.

Our apologies.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY, METRO MANILA

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS AN INTERNATIONAL AIRFREIGHT FORWARDER
CAB CASE NO. EP - 20489
TRANCY LOGISTICS PHILIPPINES, INC.)
Applicant.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that TRANCY LOGISTICS PHILIPPINES, INC. has filed an application before the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) for an Authority to Operate as an International Airfreight Forwarder. The initial hearing of the above-entitled case will be held on 28 August 2001 at 10:00 A.M. at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing, the applicant shall present its evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, or that copies thereof and the application be sent to existing CAB certified airfreight forwarders either by personal service or with a registered mail with return card at least three days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper in the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board will proceed to hear and decide this application on its merit.

Let a copy of the Application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

30 July 2001
Pasay City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.
Chief, Legal & Enforcement Division

(PDI--Aug. 12, 19 & 26, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PHILAM LIFE

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT **MR. YUL C. BENOSA** WHOSE PICTURE AND ADDRESS APPEAR BELOW IS NO LONGER AUTHORIZED TO REPRESENT THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN LIFE AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY IN ANY CAPACITY WHATSOEVER IN VIEW OF THE TERMINATION OF HIS AGENCY CONTRACT EFFECTIVE MAY 15, 2001.

MR. YUL C. BENOSA
Araullo Street, Balayan, 4213 Batangas

ANY TRANSACTION MADE OR ENTERED INTO BY THIS PERSON FOR AND IN BEHALF OF OUR COMPANY IS NOT VALID AND WILL NOT BE HONORED BY US.

PLEASE CONTACT MR. CARMELO Y. GO OF THE BUSINESS COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT, PHILAMLIFE BLDG. AT TELEPHONE NO. 526-9461 FOR ANY INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF MR. YUL C. BENOSA.

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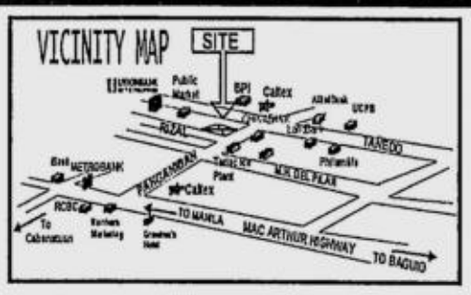
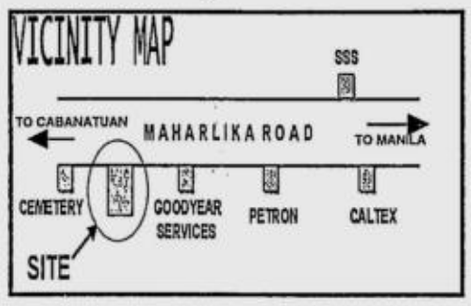
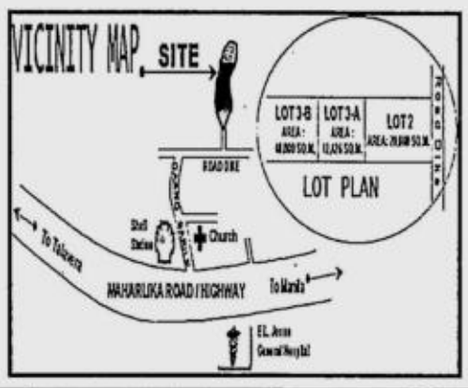


COMMERCIAL LOT - *(Tarlac City)*
Prime commercial space located along Panganiban corner Rizal Streets, Tarlac.
Lot area : 2,981 sqm.
Minimum Bid Price : P41,734,000

COMMERCIAL BLDG.- *(Cabanatuan)*
Three-storey commercial building located along Maharlika Road, Poblacion, Cabanatuan City.
LA-420 sq.m. / FA-470.40 sq.m.
Minimum Bid Price : P6,000,000





VACANT LOTS (Cabanatuan)
Three (3) vacant lots located near Maharlika Road at Road Dike, Daang Sarile, Valdefuente, Cabanatuan City.
1. *Lot 2 -Industrial & Res'l Lot w/ warehouse, office, & res'l. bldg. LA-20,000 sqm. Minimum Bid Price - P24,405,000*
2. *Lot 3-A - Agricultural Lot. LA-12,426 sqm. Minimum Bid Price - P2,765,000*
3. *Lot 3-B - Agricultural Lot. LA-38,133.2 Minimum Bid Price - P2,725,000*

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Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
ANTIPOLO				
Lot 29 Blk 1 Rosal Ave. Lumang Bayan Executive Village, Marcos Highway	126	3 units of 2-storey (with 2BR and 1TB per unit)	139.25	1.42M
Lot 16 Blk 97 Rogal St. Village East Subd.	204	unfinished 2-storey with 3BR and 3TB		1.8M
BIÑAN, LAGUNA				
Lot 13 Blk 2 Gumamela St. San Jose Village 2	132	2-storey with 4BR and 1TB	70	1.150M
BULACAN				
No 20 Sampaloc St. Constantine Subd. Malolos	290	single-detached with 1BR and 1TB plus warehouse	236	1M
No 28 Kanlaan St. Caingin	177	single-detached house with 3BR and 2TB	133	2.3M
CAINTA, RIZAL				
11 Baker St Filinvest Homes East	717	bungalow with 4BR and 3TB	257	5M
127 Aries St Villanca Subd.	254	2-storey with 5BR and 3TB	200	3M
CALOOCAN CITY				
No 219 Evergreen Ave. Evergreen Executive Village, Bo Bagumbong	150	single-detached with 2BR and 2TB	99	1M
Lot 48 Blk 29 Phoenix St. Pizmora Homes Bo Bagumbong	135	single-detached with 2BR and 1TB	52.5	600T
CAVITE				
Langka St corner Alley San Gabriel	145	single-detached with 1TB	72	335T
LAS PIÑAS CITY				
14-B Angela Townhomes North 11th St. Angela Village		townhouse with 3BR and 2TB	110	1.4M
Lot 22 Blk. 62 Romulus St., La Segovia BF Resort		townhouse with 3BR and 2TB	110	2.1M
MAKATI CITY				
Unit 705, South Star Plaza (Cityland V), South Super Highway		condo unit with 2BR and 2TB	68.78	1.67M
Cityland Condominium San Gil Puyat Unit 506 Unit 517 Unit 614 Unit 615		commercial unit	38.07 57.58 38.07 29.41	35T/sqm 35T/sqm 35T/sqm 35T/sqm
MANILA				
4740 Guadalcanal St. Sampaloc	300	4-storey commercial/ residential bldg with 4BR and 5TB	1040	13M
Unit 512, Manila Astral Tower, Taft Ave. cor Padre Faura St Ermita		residential condo with 2BR and 2TB	91	4M
MARIKINA				
65 Manhattan St. Provident Village	350	2-storey with 4BR and 2TB	441	4.8M
No 16/18 Divina Gracia St., St. Mary's Subd., Nangka	480	2-storey with 3BR and 1TB (plus warehouse)	140	1.4M
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
244 Apitong St. Ayala Alabang Village	761	2-storey with 6BR and 6TB	593	16.5M
117 Kamagong St Ayala Alabang Village	682	2-storey with 6BR and 5TB	572	27M

Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
Lot 1 Blk 28 Hyacinth St. South Greenheights Subd	422	bungalow with 4BR and TB	215.38	1.7M
CANARAQUE CITY				
Bermuda cor Bahrain St. Annex 40, Better Living	55	2-storey with 2BR and 2TB	91	1.26M
No 10 Hometown St. Fourth Estate Subd.	200	split-level house with 5BR and 2TB	185	1.7M
PASAY CITY				
No. 14-D Stanford St. Adela Hidalgo Village	64.75	3-storey townhouse with 3BR and 3TB	194.42	3.305M
187 Amaiz Ave. San Roque	207	house and lot	32	6.21M
PASIG CITY				
Unit 303 Catalina Bldg Las Villas de Valle Condo Valle Verde 2, Kamilo St. cor Lanuza Ave		condo unit with 3BR and 2TB	132.96	4.26M
Renaissance 2000 Meralco Ave Unit 306, 3rd Flr		condo unit with 3BR and 4TB	101.065	9.6M
QUEZON CITY				
Unit B, Fairview Mansions Carmel St., Fairview	59.12	townhouse with 2BR and 3TB	108	1.5M
Unit K, Fairview Mansions Carmel St., Fairview	55.2	townhouse with 3BR and 2TB	113	1.8M
10 Yaneza Dr Sierra Monte Villas, Filinvest II	96	2-storey townhouse with 3BR and 2TB	89	1.7M
No 138 A. Lana St. Project 4	268.2	2-storey with 6BR and 2TB plus shophouse	465.25	4.6M
Int Alcantara St Barlat, Tandang Sora	276	single-detached with 3BR and 2TB	126	1.1M
No 4 Dapitan St. Ayala Heights	828	4-storey with 7BR and 6TB	1078	30M

Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
QUEZON CITY - NOVALICHES				
Lot 10 Blk 1 Summerville Subd Sauyo, Novaliches	266	2 units of unfinished house	142	1.7M
712 Escarlata St. Valle Verde Homes Novaliches	240	bungalow with 3BR and 2TB	150	1.6M
TAYTAY, RIZAL				
Lot 27 Blk 7 Washington St. Cresdaville II Subd.	112	bungalow with 3BR and 1TB	65	900T
No 475 Topaz St. Palmera Homes II	75	2-storey with 2BR and 2TB	92	725T
Lot 5 Blk 35 (No 35) Yakal St., St Anthony Subd	290	1-storey with 2BR and 1TB	62	750T
VALENZUELA				
21 St. Benedict St. Francisco Subd. Tugalog	240	2-storey with 3BR and 1TB	166	1M
2047 A. Santos St. Santos Subd. Gen T deleon Karuhatan	200	2-storey with 4BR and 2TB	180	1.6M

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HOMES
Antipolo City

Hse & Lot, 2 sty Twnhse

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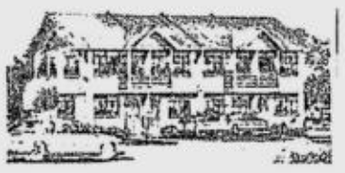

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PROJ.4 321SQM TRU LOT w/3com'l space 5M 9131588

PROJ.6 NR VISAYAS AVE. 270sqm LOT w/ FREE 2 sty.house 929-1832 426-5650

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late OLIGUER R. AURE has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on July 3, 2001 under Doc # 237; Page # 48; Book # 24; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Fernando T. Collantes of Pasig City
PDI-August 5, 12 & 19, 2001

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement of the estate of ILDEFONSO R. GONZAGA, SR. executed by his heirs on 25 April 2001 acknowledged before Slyvia M. Marasigan, Consul, Phil. Consulate General, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, entered as Doc No. 1336-01; Fee C$40.00; OR No. 0858; Service No. 2625; Series of 2001.
(PDI-Aug 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

LTO Confirmation Cert. Engine No. 984877;994154 dated 8/22/94 was lost under the name of Peaksun Ent. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. (PDI- 8/19, 26 & 9/2, 2001)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SundayBIZ

P500 can start you off in a chocolate business

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner and many people are already on the lookout for a possible source of extra income to take advantage of the holiday spending spree. For those who don't have too much time or lack any special skill, then chocolate making may be a good option.

Hermy Pascual of the Negoskwela Livelihood and Training Center tells the INQUIRER that chocolate molding is easy since it simply means melting blocks of white and dark chocolate and pouring these into ready-made molds.

The chocolate is melted on a double broiler. If you don't have a double broiler, simply pour water on a deep frying pan or pot and then melt the chocolate blocks on a stainless steel mixing bowl.

There is a whole range of molds in different shapes and sizes that are available in the market. Pascual says there are molds that are suited for a special occasion like Easter bunnies or Santa Claus figures for Christmas.

The chocolate can also be molded into lollipops.

"Chocolate molding is very easy and the products are also very easy to sell. You don't need more ingredients, just the chocolate blocks. You just have to keep the mixture and the materials free of water or moisture so that the finished products will look shiny and good to eat," Pascual stresses.

The chocolate blocks are readily available from Killion bakeshop in Quiapo, Chocolate Lover's along P.Tuazon, Quezon City and from the Comfoods, makers of the Ricoa chocolate.

For add-ons, the chocolate molders can also use candy sprinkles, chocolate chips, raisins, liqueur, and rice crispies or other cereals. You can either mix these with the melted chocolate or just sprinkle them on top of the melted chocolate just before they harden.

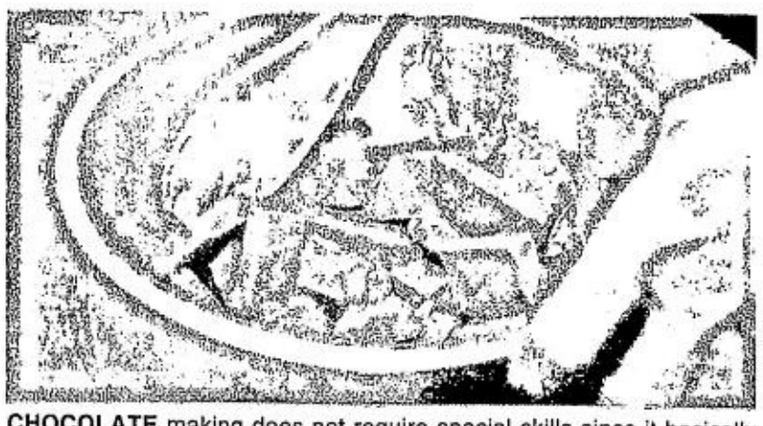
How Tos

To compute the selling price, Pascual recommends that you divide the cost of the ingredients by the number of finished products. For example, if a kilo of the melted dark chocolate costs P80 and you can make 100 pieces of molded chocolate then the cost is 8 centavos per piece.

The cost is then multiplied by three to cover for the profit and the cost of labor, thus, the selling price for each piece should be P2.40.

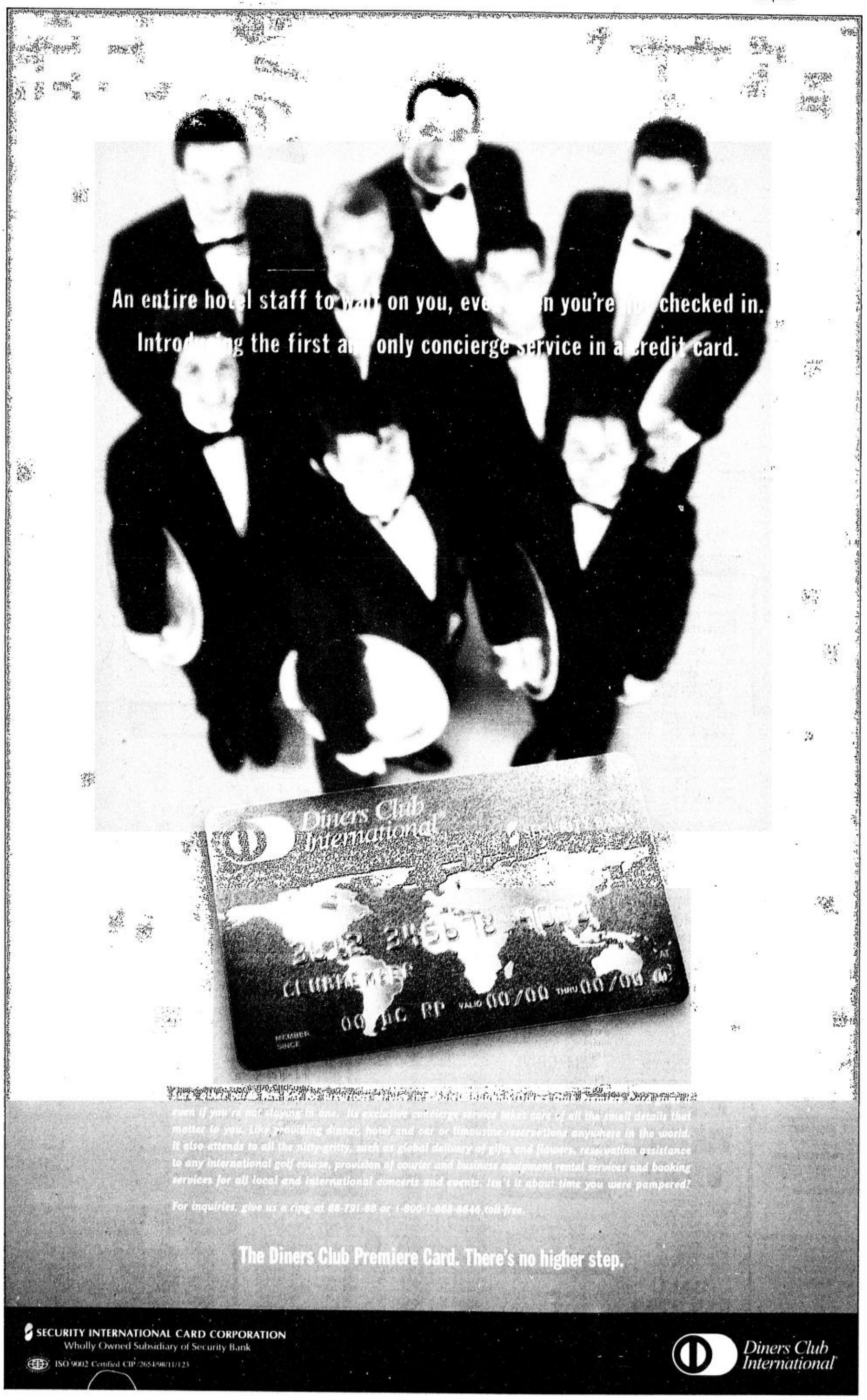
"You can adjust the price a little lower if you want to sell more but multiplying the cost by three is already an acceptable margin. It is the standard used by other companies. It is in fact already low because other companies sometimes multiply the cost five times," he says.

As an added service, the home-based entrepreneur can experiment with different kinds of packaging to differentiate the chocolate from the others.



CHOCOLATE making does not require special skills since it basically involves melting the chocolate blocks and molding them into different shapes.

ROMY HOMILLADA



Fast food moving out from under the golden arches

CHICAGO—Investment banker Spence Fischer was looking for a sophisticated dining experience recently but didn't have a lot of time.

He found Xando Cosi, a combination sandwich shop and coffee house in downtown Chicago whose dim lighting, leather-backed chairs and local art make it look like a lot of other restaurants in a city known for its fine dining.

But its quick cafeteria-style line sets it apart.

"It's eating at a table, it's fast and you get fresh food, but it's kind of pricey," said Fischer, 28, as he dined at one of several Xando Cosi outlets in the area. "The first time I came here I spent $12 on lunch."

Many Americans like Fischer, weaned on McDonald's Big Macs and Burger King's Whoppers, are sidling away from traditional fast food and stepping into a relatively new breed of restaurant chains claiming to balance quick counter service with the menu and atmosphere of a casual restaurant.

"People who have grown up on fast food are now older, they have more money in their pocket, but they still want and need the speed and convenience of fast food," said consumer analyst Bob Sandelman, president of Sandelman and Associates.

Fast casual

Throughout the United States, better-than-drive-through, not-quite-sit-down restaurants are sprouting up under the industry rubric, "fast-casual."

Fast-casuals raked in $1.3 billion in sales in 2000, according to Chicago-based food service and restaurant consulting firm Technomics.

The trendy stops are customer favorites across the country, repeatedly scoring higher than fast food chains in quality and service, Sandelman said.

For investors, some of the hottest restaurant companies are in this emerging category. Deli chain Schlotzsky's Inc., stock price has risen 170 percent over the last year to $7.18 on Wednesday. Bakery and sandwich shops Panera Bread stock price has risen 260 percent in a year to $35.90.

To accompany their hip, urban feel, fast-casual restaurants make a healthy impression touting fresh, "no can openers here" menus. Mexican chain Chipotle Grill, who counts McDonalds Corp. as one of its investors, offers free-range pork.

Consumers who equate a higher class of fast food with healthier eating might be in for a disappointment. An "Original" sandwich at a Schlotzsky's deli contains 41 grams of fat and supplies 713 calories, more than a McDonalds' Quarter Pounder with cheese, which weighs in at 30 grams of fat and 530 calories.

"There is clearly a perception that fresh means healthy, whether that is true or not," T.J. Callahan of Technomics. "You give me freshly-made refried beans: They are fresh—but I don't know if they are healthy."

Chipotle, whose website reads "Mexico on $5 a day," may charge that much for its standard burrito. But make the burrito a meal with chips, guacamole and a beer and the check jumps to around $10.

Lunch at bakery and sandwich shop Panera Bread averages about $6, double the average fast food check, but half the price of a casual dining tab, said Panera chief financial officer, William Moreton.

What to charge for a sandwich?

This is a whole new segment of the restaurant industry redefining what to charge for a sandwich, Callahan said.

Even in the midst of a slowing economy, the industry experts and restaurateurs said the more expensive fast-casuals will flourish.

"It's just part of a larger trend," said St. Joseph University food marketing professor John Lord. "There is an increasing emphasis on time. We want things quicker and better tasting and we are willing to pay a little more for it."

While fast food giants McDonalds Corp. and Tricon Global Restaurants Inc.—parent company of KFC, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell—battle customer service woes and disappointing earnings, fast-casual chains are emerging as restaurant successes.

"I don't think fast-casual is a fad, I think it's a structural change starting to happen in the restaurant industry," Callahan said. "Some of the major restaurant dining chains are fairly concerned about this."

Cosi, which advertises itself as "the ultimate place to drink, dine and unwind," expects to go public by spring of 2002 after adding an additional 20 outlets this year, said Cosi founder and CEO Andy Stenzler.

Each of their outlets are company-owned, Stenzler said franchising stores might compromise quality.

Panera Bread reported a doubling of net income in the first quarter and a 57-percent increase in system-wide sales. Panera has yet to report second-quarter results.

Formerly St. Louis Bread Co., the chain of 225 outlets recently changed its name to the more posh Panera and underwent extensive remodeling to make it more appealing to the fast-casual set.

The McDonalds investment helped Chipotle, who has no plans to become a publicly traded company, expand from 14 Colorado restaurants in 1998 to a nationwide chain with 150 restaurants, Chipotle spokesperson Jim Adams said.

Chipotle, started as a single restaurant by Culinary Institute of America-trained chef Steve Ells, is on pace to open 75 restaurants this year and another 75 restaurants next year, Adams said.

Despite what Adams describes as a "funky," "urban," "New York loft kind of feel," many of the new Chipotles and Cosis will be catering to baby-boomers in suburbia—the new neighborhood gathering places as local coffee shops and delis disappear.

"In many cases the neighborhood places are sort of a dying breed," Sandelman said. ***Reuters***

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

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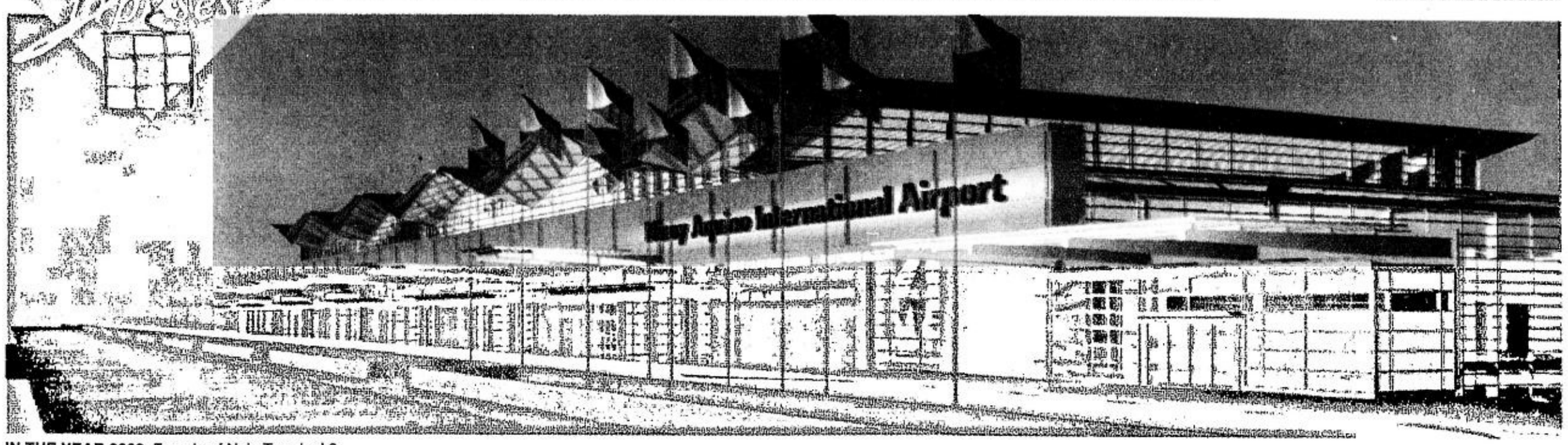
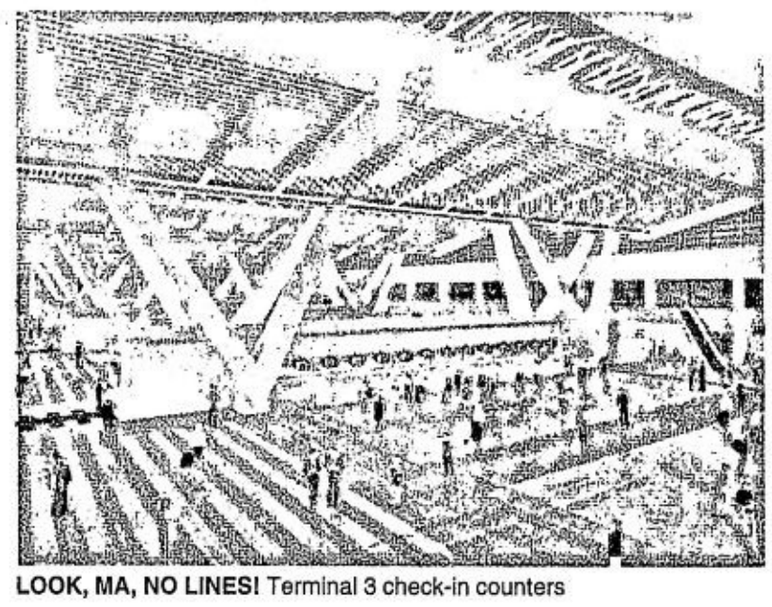


IN THE YEAR 2002. Façade of Naia Terminal 3



LOOK, MA, NO LINES! Terminal 3 check-in counters

An airport that will give a good first impression

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

FORGET the controversies for a moment. Pretend you are traveling at the tailend of the year 2002 and it is your first visit to the Philippines. Your aircraft lands at the spanking new Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3. Immediately you notice the sleek architecture and interiors, reminding you of other equally first-rate airport terminals—San Francisco, Frankfurt and Hong Kong, to name a few.

On the other hand, a departing passenger who steps into Terminal 3 will feel proud to be a Filipino. Finally, the Pinoy traveler will say to himself, a terminal at par with the world's best.

Much has been written about the controversies surrounding the construction of the Naia 3 in the last several weeks. Criticisms have been aired one after the other by the lead players involved. But little or nothing has been said about the fantastic passenger-friendly features that the controversial Naia Terminal 3 will have when it opens in late 2002.

A visit to the site, where construction is now 45 percent completed, leaves the visitor in awe. In keeping with the 1990 Naia master plan study, the new terminal will replace the existing International Passenger Terminal 1. When operational, it shall ac-

AN AIRPORT/ p.C3

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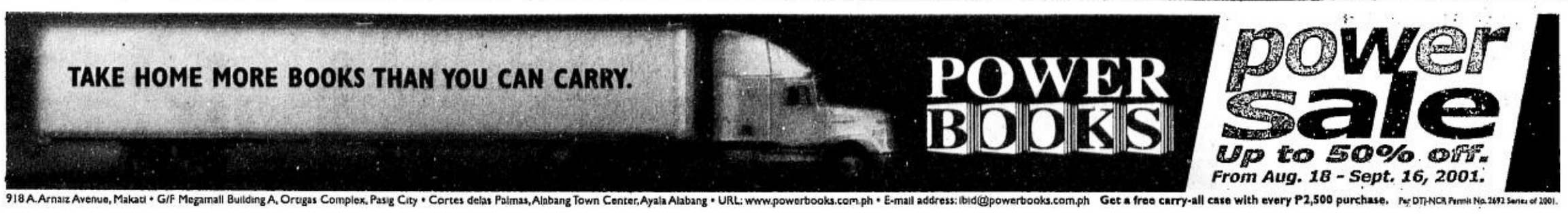

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Chemotherapy/radiation	Rates depend on doctor's asking fee and medicines bought	Rates depend on the attending physician and type of cancer	Rates depend on the attending physician	Rates depend on the attending physician and medicines bought	Rates depend on the attending physician and type of cancer Radiation not performed	Not performed
Dialysis	P8,450	Acetate—P2,000; Bicarbonate—P3,000; New—P1,700	Acetate—P2,636; Bicarbonate—P3,496; New—P1,550	Acetate—P3,000; Bicarbonate—P4,000	Acetate—P2,500; Bicarbonate—P3,500	Not performed
Angioplasty	Not performed	Not performed	Not performed	Not performed	P150,000	Not performed
Heart Bypass	Not performed	Not performed	Not performed	Not performed	P350,000	Not performed
TESTS/LABORATORY FEES:						
ECG	P460	P450	P300	P300	P200	P275
Mammogram	P1,075	P1,100	P1,430	P1,080	P760	P375
2D Echocardiography	P3,520	P2,530	P2,000	P2,500 (with color Doppler)	Plain—P1,300; with Doppler—P1,800	Not performed
CT Scan	P4,000 (plain); P5,500 (head, with color contrast); P5,700 (chest); P8,400 (whole abdomen)	P3,240 (head); P10,560 (whole abdomen)	P4,140 (head); P8,280 (whole abdomen)	P3,850 (head); P4,400 (chest); P8,250 (whole abdomen)	P2,375 (head); P4,375 (whole abdomen)	P1,450 (plain); P2,830 (head and chest); P4,550 (whole abdomen)
Chest X-ray	P370	P395	P440	Adult—P242; child—P275	P285	P230
Urinalysis	P130	P100	P120	P70	P60	P105
CBC (Complete Blood Count)	P210	P200	P230	P190	P70	P119
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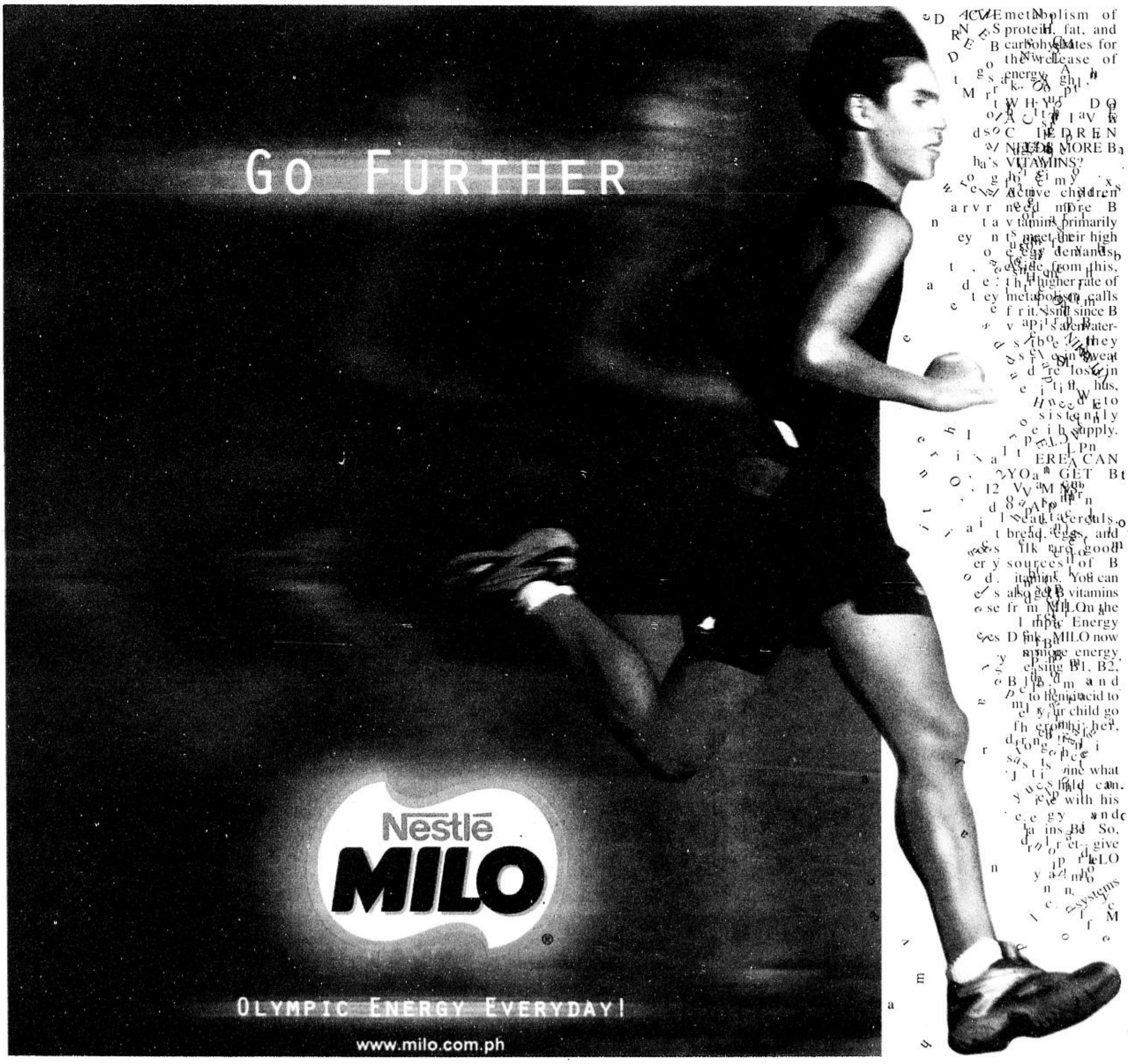
Room rates	Small private P805; Large private P1,050	Prices range from P585-P2,750 per day	P800-P2,210	Small private P730; large private P1,060	P595-P3,725	Small private P650; regular private P900; large private P1,150
Deposit requirement	P4,000 for ordinary illness; P6,000 for surgery	Depends on type of illness and room rate. If a patient prefers a private room, for example, a deposit of P5,000 is required.	P10,000	P5,000	P2,800-P8,000, depending on room rate	P5,000 for regular, private; P8,000 for surgery
Policy on medicines	Patient can purchase medicines outside the hospital	Patient can purchase medicines from the hospital pharmacy or other drug stores	Patient's medicines must be bought from the hospital pharmacy	Patient can purchase medicines outside the hospital	Patient can purchase medicines from the hospital pharmacy or other drug stores	Patient's medicines must be bought from the hospital pharmacy
Parking	P18 for the first two hours; P6 per succeeding hour	P20 for the first three hours; P10 per succeeding hour	P20 for the first three hours; P10 per succeeding hour	P20 for the first two hours; P5 per succeeding hour	P15 for the first three hours; P5 per succeeding hour	None
Dining	The hospital has its own canteen within its premises	The hospital has its own canteen within its premises	The hospital has a canteen	The hospital has a canteen	The hospital has its Jollibelle Canteen	The hospital has its own canteen

INQCHART: MRUBIO



An airport that will give a good first impression

(From page C1)

commodate all international traffic.

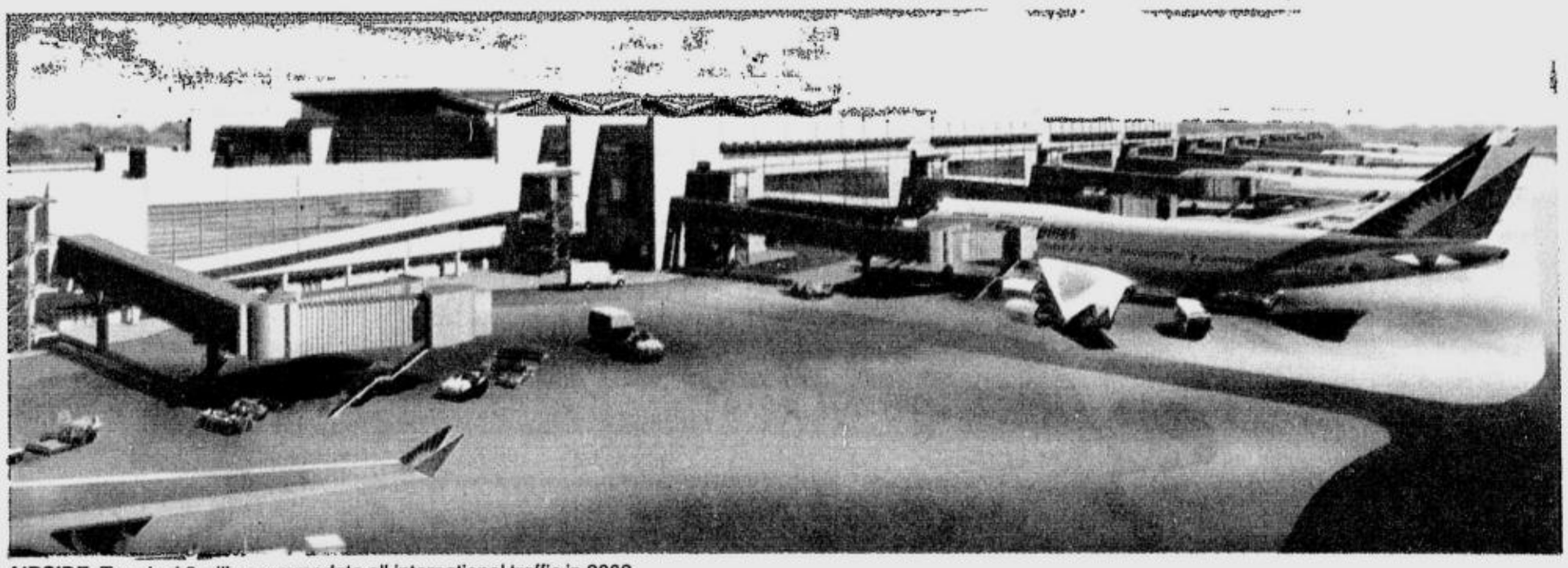
According to Stephan Bauchspeiss, executive director of Philippine Airport and Ground Services Terminals Inc. (PTI), the government awarded the build-operate-and-transfer (BOT) contract for the project to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) in 1997, during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos.

Construction began early last year and is in full swing at the 65-hectare site in Villamor Air Base. Expected completion is in the last quarter of 2002. Naia Terminal 3 is being built and will be operated by Piatco, a Philippine corporation comprised of Flughafen Frankfurt Main AG (FRAPort), People's Aircargo and Warehousing Co.,Inc. (Paircargo), PTI, Philippine Airport and Ground Services Inc. (PAGS), SB Airport Investments Inc., Nissho Iwai Corp. and Takenanka Corp.

The airport was designed by the world-renowned architectural firm Skidmore, Owens and Merrill whose latest project is the new terminal in San Francisco, California.

When we visited the site, construction was going on full blast with 3,000 people working seven days a week, round the clock on 8-12 hour shifts. The site itself is massive and impressive and surprisingly clean for a construction site.

Head honcho at the site is German engineer Karl May. His team consists of his right-hand man Ernesto Hernandez, a group of Japanese engineers and supervisors led by Shinji Futo, and the 3,000-plus Pinoy workers. Combining American design, German precision, Japanese technology and Filipino craftsmanship, a formidable team is at work on the new terminal.



AIRSIDE. Terminal 3 will accommodate all international traffic in 2002.

Architectural features

Stepping into the terminal itself is a "humbling" experience. One feels dwarfed by the huge and massive gates of the proposed departure area. Running the entire length of the terminal along the main access road, canopies protect the interior of the terminal from direct sunlight. The scale of the canopies gives a feeling of being enclosed, providing passengers with both a sense of welcome and security.

The concourses are clear and functional structures. At the center of each concourse will be a large, two-story sky-lit shopping atrium, a visually dramatic setting for shoppers waiting for their flights.

The car park south of the terminal will accommodate 2,000 cars. In addition, surface parking for 1,000 vehicles will be available in front of the terminal.

The terminal building is designed to accommodate five well-wishers for every passenger. Hopefully there will be no overcrowding here, folks. Consider the following features of Terminal 3:

- Fitness buffs will enjoy walking the entire building, which, from end to end, measures 1 km and 4 m.
- For the faint of heart or those with heavy hand-carried luggage, there will be five walkalators running the breadth of the terminal
- Total floor area is about 200,000 sq m.
- Twenty-eight aircraft gates—20 contact and eight remote.
- A total of 138 check-in counters divided into five islands will hopefully eliminate long lines. There are five gates leading into the airport's "head house," the departure level that leads to the five islands where the check-in counters are located.
- The immigration section has an impressive contingent of 52 counters in the departure level and 68 in the arrival area.
- Nine baggage carousels.
- Top-of-the-line security system for baggage screening similar to those in the San Francisco and Frankfurt airports.
- A shopping center that will house restaurants, shops and bars at the center of the terminal.

The Terminal 3 experience

Walking through Terminal 3 that afternoon as we tried to simulate the experience of a departing or arriving passenger was certainly a workout that left us all sweaty (naturally, as there was no air conditioning yet) and breathless.

Access to the departure level is possible by private car or by public transportation from Andrews Avenue. The departure curb will have direct access to the car park building.

Unlike in the old terminals, departing passengers and their well-wishers will be allowed into the departure hall. Last-minute passengers may also purchase tickets at the heads of the check-in islands and proceed directly for check-

AN AIRPORT/ p.C7

WORLD'S BEST. At work on site

PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

good reasons
why you should see
a Doctor if you're taking
medication for high cholesterol.

SAFETY: *Are the side effects minimal?*

EXPERIENCE: *Has it been prescribed by doctors for over 10 years to more than 10 million patients?*

CLINICAL EVIDENCE: *Is it proven to help prevent heart attacks in people with high cholesterol or heart disease when diet and exercise are not enough?*

Discuss your treatment options with your Doctor immediately.

A health message from
Bristol-Myers Squibb (Phils.) Inc.
Extending & Enhancing Human Life
For information, please visit us at our website: www.bms.com.ph

au

mo

BUY a Nokia 5110i for only ₱4390 for a chance to

Available at Globe Telecom Business Centers, authorized dealers and participating outlets.

Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus SIM comes with P300 worth of prepaid credits free.

Make sure this official promo sticker is affixed to the box of the Nokia 5110i phone kit that you buy.

Promo period: August 18 to November 18, 2001 only.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2640, Series of 2001.

It's easy to win!

1. Every purchase of a specially marked Nokia 5110i Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus phone kit entitles you to a raffle stub for a chance to win one of three (3) Opel Astra Wagons.
2. The phone kit contains a raffle stub and an IMEI sticker. The IMEI sticker must be attached to the raffle stub. This bears the IMEI number found at the back of the Nokia 5110i cellphone to indicate its authenticity.
3. Fill up the raffle coupon with your name, address, telephone number, new Globe Handyphone number, dealer's name and address then affix signature. Attach the IMEI sticker found inside the phone kit and drop in drop boxes located at all Globe Telecom Business Centers, accredited dealers and participating outlets.
4. Promo period is from Aug. 18 to Nov. 18, 2001.
5. One Opel Astra will be raffled off every month for three months. Raffle draw dates are as follows: First draw – Sept. 25, 2001, Second draw Oct. 25, 2001, Third draw – Nov. 26, 2001 at 4:00pm at Globe Telecom Marketing Department, 4/F GT Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. Non-winning entries per draw will be included in the next raffle draw.
6. Deadline for submission of entries is every 18th of the month: Sept. 18, 2001; Oct. 18, 2001; Nov. 18, 2001.
7. A participant can only win once. Once a winner has been drawn, a Globe Telecom representative shall make a call to the Globe Handyphone number indicated on the raffle stub to notify that he/she has won. The subscriber shall be required to give his/her name and address and will be informed of the requirements when claiming. The winning subscriber shall also be notified by registered mail.
8. When claiming, proceed to Globe Telecom Marketing Department, 4/F GT Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City and present the following:
   a. Purchased Nokia 5110i handset with the same IMEI as the one indicated on the raffle coupon plus the Prepaid SIM. The Globe Handyphone number must also be identical to the one indicated on the raffle coupon.
   b. Official receipt, valid ID with picture and registered mail.
9. If the winner is a minor, he/she must be accompanied by his/her parents/guardian when claiming the prize and both the minor and his/her parents/guardian should present a valid identification. The latter should also bring proof that he/she is the parent/guardian of the minor.
10. A free round trip ticket for two (2) to Singapore with free
    will be given to the Globe Telecom Business Center, a
    winning entry. Travel documents and taxes pertaining to
    is valid for 6 months from date of redemption.
11. The 20% prize tax shall be borne by Globe Telecom
    registration of the vehicle awarded as prize shall be bo
12. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from rece
    (60) day period from notification, the prize shall be fo
    All prizes are not convertible to cash.
13. Employees of Globe Telecom, Harrison Communicatio
    and participating outlets; including their relatives up to th
    from joining the car raffle.

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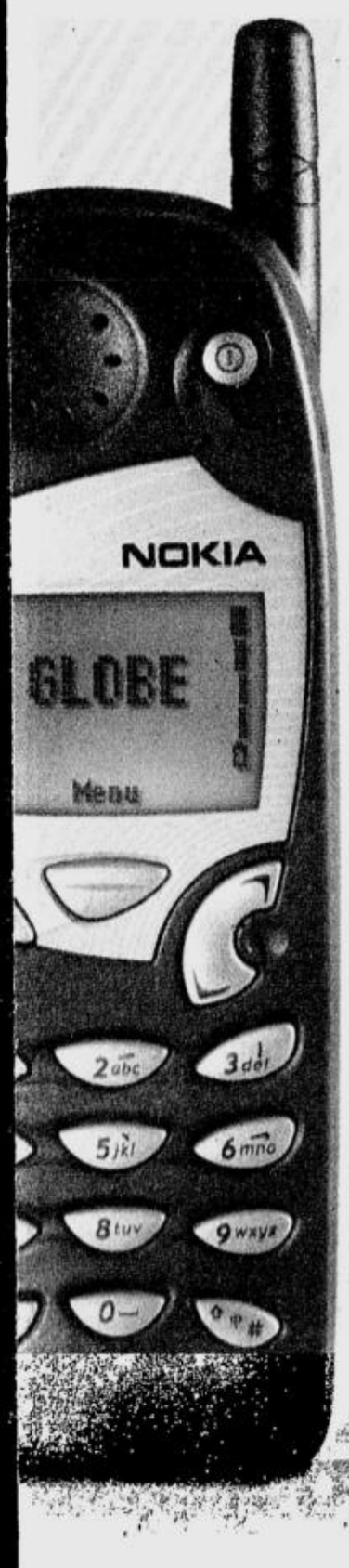
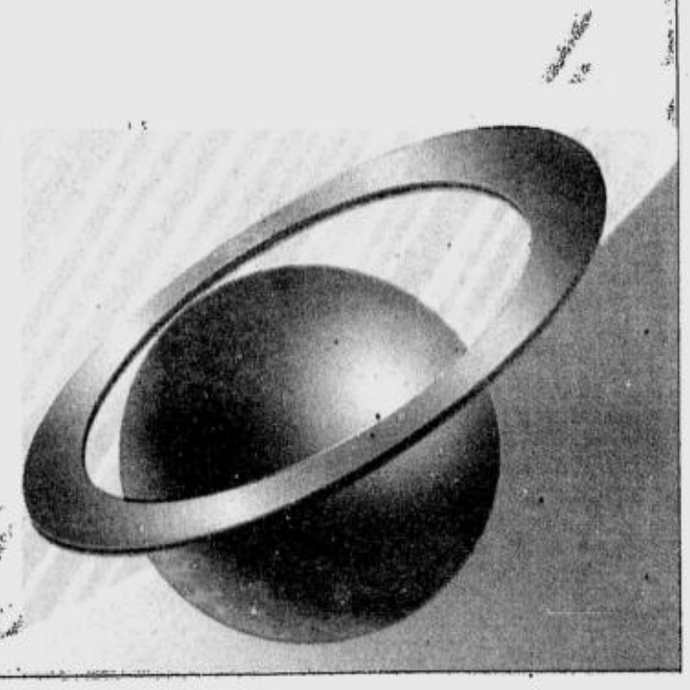


WIN one of three 2001 Opel Astra Wagons!



Globe HANDYPHONE **Prepaid Plus**

airfare and hotel accommodation for 3 days and 2 nights
ccredited dealer and participating outlet indicated on the
the trip shall be borne by the winners. The travel package

Any other taxes and registration fees pertaining to the
ne by the winner.
t of notification. If prizes are not claimed within the sixty
eited in favor of Globe Telecom with prior DTI approval.

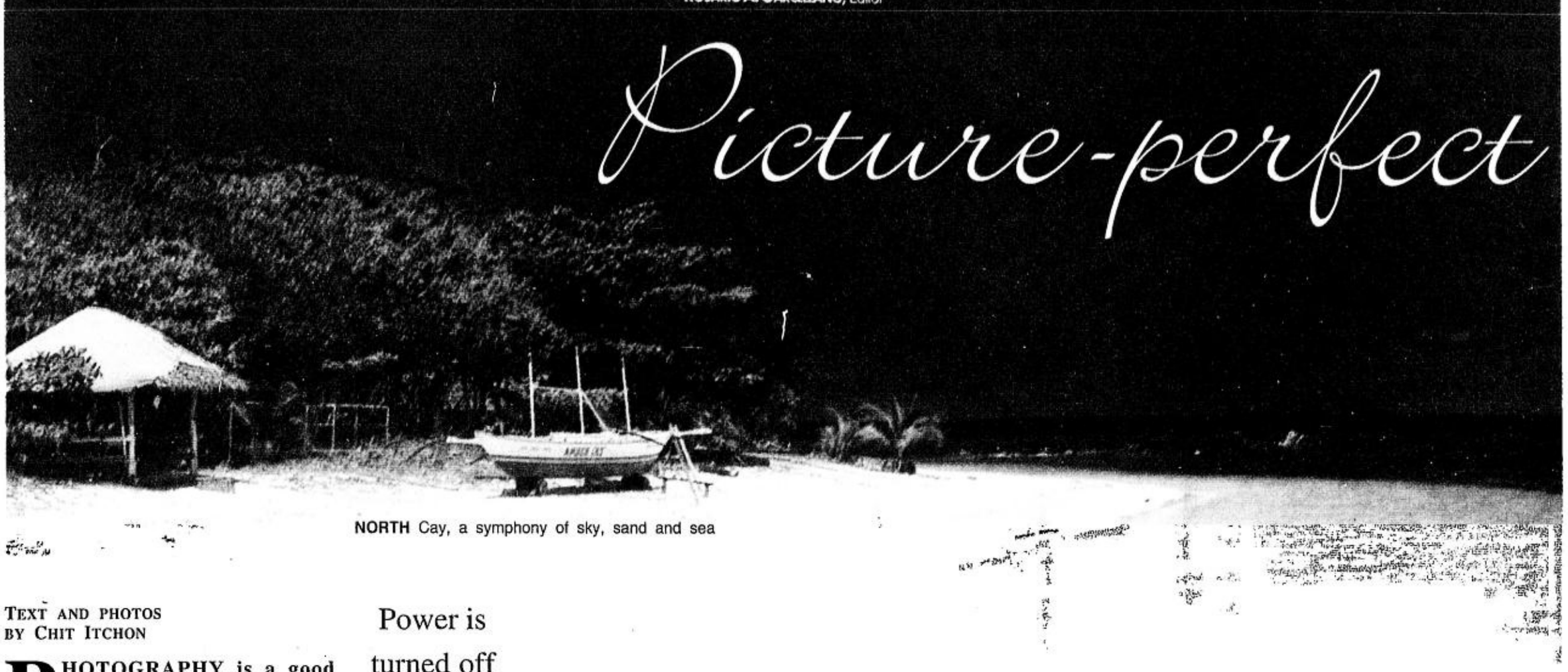
ns, Globe Telecom Business Centers, accredited dealers
second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified

METRO MANILA CENTERS: ALABANG TOWN CENTER Unit 4009 ATC-Expansion Wing Alabang Zapote Road, Muntinlupa 850-7864 • **FESTIVAL SUPERMALL** Unit 4064 A&B (4/F) Alabang Zapote Wing, Filinvest Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa 8428016 • **GLORIETTA HUB** Unit 252/254 2nd level, HUB Glorietta 4 Building, Ayala Center 7570525 **GREENHILLS** 2/F ALCO Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, San Juan, Metro Manila 723-5171/723-5446 • **GT PLAZA** Upper Ground Globe Telecom Plaza Pioneer St., Cor. Madison St., Mandaluyong City 730-2506 • **MARIKINA** G/F Alcantara Bldg., 282 A. Bonifacio Avenue, Marikina City 933-3772/73 • **PARK SQUARE** I Park Square I South Drive Ayala Center Makati City (Near Exit of Park Square I parking) 752-8142 • **ROBINSON'S GALLERIA** Ground Flr., Level 1, I-A11 Robinson's Galleria Mall 6385976/6384051 • **ROCKWELL HUB** Unit 317 3rd Level Power Plant Main Rockwell, Makati City • **SHAW** G/F AB Sandoval Building Oranbo drive corner Shaw Blvd., Pasig City 910-2093 • **SM CENTERPOINT** 3/F Unit 310 Magsaysay Blvd., Cor Araneta Ave., Sta. Mesa, Manila 713-1606 • **SM FAIRVIEW** Unit 2004 2nd level SM Fairview Quirino Highway Cor. Regalado Avenue Greater Lagro, Quezon City 419-6470 • **SM MANILA** 4/Flr Unit 430 SM City Manila, Arroceros St., Cor. Marcelino Sta and Concepcion Avenue, Manila 522-8895 • **SM MEGAMALL** 5/F SM Megamall Bldg., Building B, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 638-3106 • **SM NORTH EDSA** Right Wing SM Car Park Plaza III, SM City North Edsa, Quezon City 454-8828 • **SM SOUTHMALL** UG East Hall Way, SM Southmall, Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Pinas City 800-5305 • **TOWER ONE** G/F Unit C Tower One and Exchange Plaza Ayala Avenue, Makati City 751-3286 • **UN** G/F Globe Telecom Bldg., 669 United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila 759-7225 • **NORTH LUZON CENTERS: ANGELES** Unit F' & G, D.M. Gomez Bldg., Salapungan, Angeles City, Pampanga (045) 887-0542 • **ANTIPOLO** 2/F Camina Bldg., #5 Circumferential Rd., Antipolo, Rizal (02) 650-0573 • **BAGUIO** 2/F 6Pt Bldg., Session Road, Baguio City (074) 443-8903 • **CABANATUAN CITY** Ayala Life Bldg., Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija (044) 463-7377 • **CALAMBA** 2/F J. Alcasid Bldg., Crossing, Calamba, Laguna (049) 545-2504 • **DAGUPAN CITY** Carried Lumber Bldg., M.H. del Pilar St., Dagupan City (075) 523-0624 • **LEGASPI** 2/F A. Bichara Silverstreen & Entertainment Center Magallanes cor. T. Alonzo St., Legaspi City (052) 820-1339 • **LUCENA** Unit 3 VEA Building Hermana Fausta, Lucena City (043) 373-6117 • **MEYCAUAYAN** Meycauayan College Building, McArthur Highway, Meycauayan, Bulacan (044) 840-0012 • **SAN PABLO** 19 M. Leonor St., San Pablo City (049) 561-1746 • **SM PAMPANGA** Ground Floor, SM City Pampanga, Lagundi, Mexico, Pampanga (045) 961-6339 • **TARLAC** Sikayan Supermarket, McArthur Highway, Tarlac, Tarlac (045) 982-7930 • **TUGUEGARAO** Unit 57-B Chowking Bldg., Balzain Rd., Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Valley (078) 844-5526 • **VIGAN** Unit 3, Formosa Townhouse A, Mabini St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur (077) 722-1697 • **SOUTHWEST CENTERS: BACOOR (HOST)** General Trona Highway Barangay Dulong Bayan, Bacoor, Cavite (046) 970-8010 • **BOLBOK** Diversion Extension Rd. Brgy. Bolbok, Batangas City (043) 980-0123 • **CALAPAN** G/F Ferraren Bldg., M. Leuterio St., Calapan, Oriental Mindoro (043) 441-0123 • **LIPA AMS** Bldg., G/F 50 B. Morada Avenue, Lipa City (043) 981-0123 • **MOLINO** G/F EVY Corp. Bldg., Molino Road, Bacoor, Cavite (046) 517-2861 • **SM BACOOR** 3rd Level, SM Bacoor, Aguinaldo Hway cor Tirona, Bacoor, Cavite (046) 970-8123 • **VISAYAS CENTERS: BACOLOD** Unit 107 VSB Mall Lacson St., cor 6th & 7th sts. Bacolod City (034) 435-3961 • **CEBU AYALA CENTER** 2nd Level, Paseo Verde, Ayala Center Cebu, Cebu Business Park, Archbishop Reyes Avenue, Cebu City (032) 233-5811 • **CEBU KANGHA** G/F Kangha Bldg., Osmeña Blvd. cor. Lapu-Lapu St., Cebu City (032) 254-1011 • **SM CEBU** 3rd Level SM City Cebu North Reclamation Cebu City (032) 4129956, (032) 4129957 • **SM ILOILO** Level 2 SM City Iloilo B. Aquino Ave., Mandurriao, Iloilo City 5000 (033) 320-7739 • **MINDANAO CENTERS: BUTUAN** Unios College Gym J.C. Aquino corner Calo St., Butuan City (085) 815-4011 • **CAGAYAN DE ORO** G/F Metz Arcade, Cap. Vicente Roa Ext., Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 725-601 • **COTABATO CITY** G/F B Marco Bldg., Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City (064) 482-0001 • **DAVAO** Grand Men Serg Hotel A, Pichon St., Davao City (082) 226-3521 • **DAVAO-VICTORIA PLAZA** 2/F Victoria Plaza, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City (082) 300-3666 • **GENERAL SANTOS** Door 17 Rosal Bldg., Santiago Blvd., General Santos City (083) 301-0051 • **ILIGAN** G/F Kimberly Bldg., National Highway, Tibanga, Iligan City (063) 223-9139 • **VALENCIA, BUKIDNON** Garcia's Bldg., Casaresta St., Cor. Sayre Highway, Valencia, Bukidnon (088) 828-3344 • **ZAMBOANGA** Door 2&3 ARV Bldg., San Jose Road, Zamboanga City (062) 992-1015

TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

Picture-perfect



NORTH Cay, a symphony of sky, sand and sea

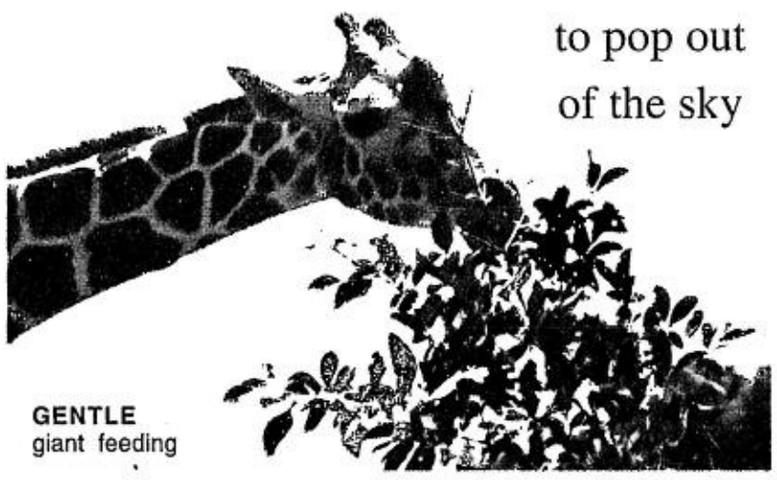
TEXT AND PHOTOS BY CHIT ITCHON

PHOTOGRAPHY is a good teacher. Since I took it more seriously three years ago, I have learned to readily harness my creativity and to be more perceptive of my surroundings.

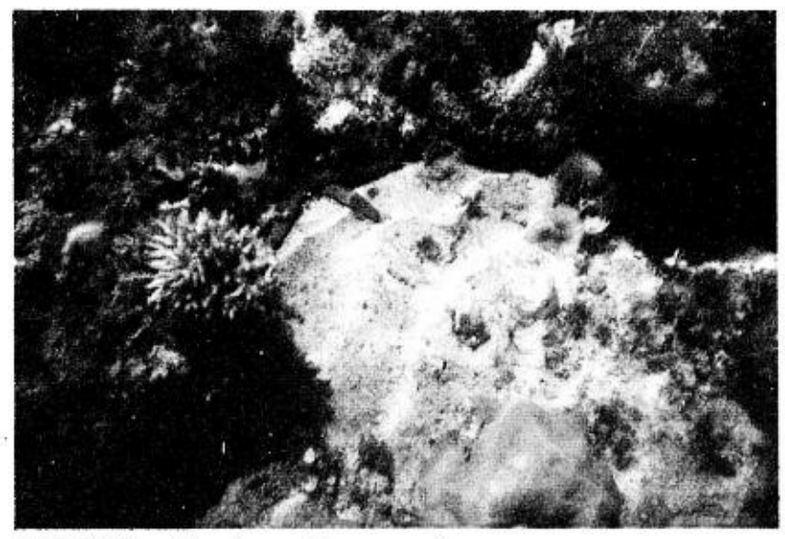
Most of all, photography has taught me to be adventurous. It is amazing how the promise of a perfect shot has enabled me to venture into unknown territory and do things I would not ordinarily do. And it is this same promise that brought me to the Calamian Group, in Northern Palawan, last April.

I set off on my adventure armed with two cameras, three lenses, one flash, 30 rolls of film, a tripod, four filters, spare batteries and ample supplies of sun block and mosquito repellant. I came prepared. The Calamian Group comprises around 900 islands. That's a lot of ground—and potential photographs.

Power is turned off at 10 p.m. But so what? It is only in darkness that the stars seem to pop out of the sky



GENTLE giant feeding



PACIFIC Blue Seastar on the ocean floor

COTTAGE for rent

My island

Of the Calamian islands, my favorite to date and one that has served as my home in the area is North Cay. It is a tiny island, roughly only 2.5 hectares large. You can cover it in a leisurely, 15-minute walk, or, more quickly, in five, making it ideal for chasing sunrises and sunsets.

I was quite intent on capturing the beauty of the sun setting on the horizon and spent many late afternoons scampering through North Cay for the best view.

One side of the island is lined with Boracay-like white sand, great for sunbathing and stargazing. On the other side is rugged terrain. At its western end sits a triple-peaked rock formation that turns amber in color when lit up by the earliest rays of the sun.

North Cay has two cottages for rent, each with its own kitchen, outhouse and outdoor dining area. The island has its own generator that runs only from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Not that the darkness after 10 p.m. has ever bothered me. Without electricity, the stars seem to shine brighter and to pop out of the sky.

Hermit crabs also make an appearance as soon as the lights go out. Even from a distance, you can hear the soft castanets-like sound of their shells gently hitting the cement floor of the outhouse.

What I love most about North Cay is its thriving coral reef that offers the most colorful and varied marine life that I've ever seen. The reef is in shallow waters, so even non-divers like me can get a great close-up view of the paradise under the sea.

I discovered the joy of snorkeling here. It's really difficult not to take great pleasure in it, as the ocean floor surrounding North Cay just seems to burst with life in all colors, shapes and patterns. I made a mental note to myself to buy a book on coral reef inhabitants so that I could identify all that I saw here. I also contemplated finally conquering my fear of diving, because if the marine life is beautiful in shallow waters, imagine how spectacular the scenery in the depths can be!

My most touching underwater experience was with a tomato clownfish. Unlike the other fish that would swim away from me, this little creature actually approached me and faced me head on. I remember thinking what a cute and friendly fish it was. But then, out of the corner of my eye, I spotted a baby tomato clownfish hiding in the corals underneath. That's when I realized that the fish's gesture was not out of friendship; rather, it was the brave stance of a mother defending her child.

Many other small islands surround North Cay, making it an ideal hop-off point. Unfortunately, some islands are not as protected as the others. And it's really heartbreaking to see dying reefs.

Safari

Another island dear to my heart is Calauit, home of the wildlife sanctuary. It's a photographer's paradise and probably the only one in the Philippines where you can actually take pictures of giraffes and zebras in their "natural" habitat.

The sanctuary was established in 1977 and was initially designed to serve as hunting ground for a select few. Most of its original animals were brought in from Africa. Now, it is the third- or fourth-generation giraffes, deer, elands, water bucks and zebras that roam freely on the island.

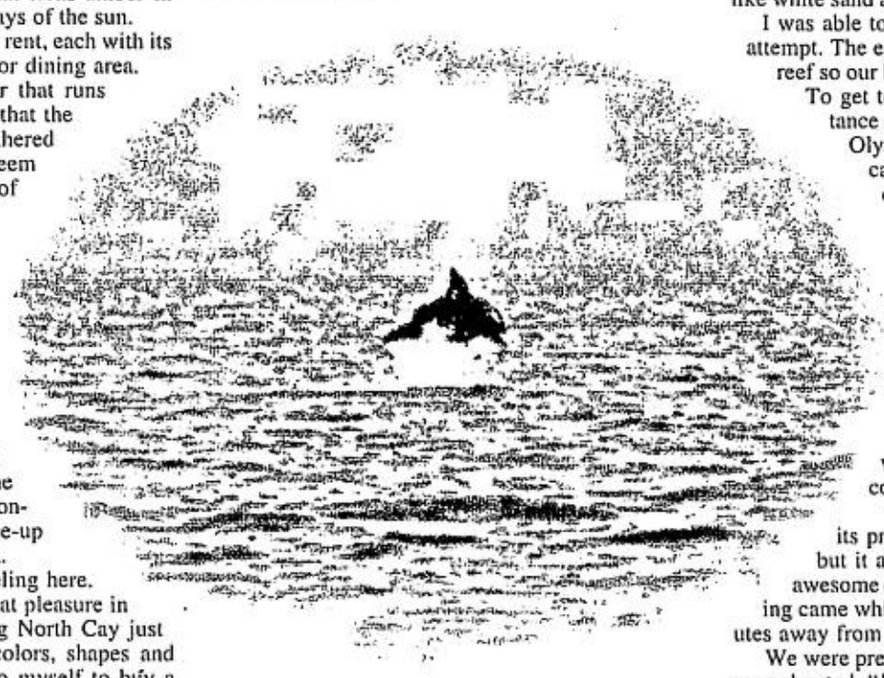
For an incredibly low P100+, you get a guided bus tour of the reserve and the chance to get up close and personal with its herbivorous residents. Sometimes, the animals feed near the main road so you get a good view of them. Some appear to purposefully pose for a photograph before running off to safe ground.

The tour includes stops at penned areas that separately house the high-strung mouse deer, the always hungry bear cats, a very shy porcupine and a stoic python.

The highlight of our Calauit trip was feeding the giraffes. I was lucky that, at the time of our visit, the giraffes still graciously accepted a branch or two of green leaves. I'm told that in warm weather the giraffes are too lazy to approach visitors, even if they have the animals' favorite acacia leaves on hand.

Sadly, the sanctuary badly needs more funding to survive. It has one dilapidated truck, with even more dilapidated tires, for the tours. It scares me to think what will happen when the tires finally wear out beyond repair.

The sanctuary also does not have a resident (or even a visiting) veterinarian to regularly care for the animals. And the supply of medicines is reportedly few and far between.



'Lumba lumba!' he shouted. And the dolphins put up a show and started leaping out of the water

But despite these conditions, the staff of Calauit has managed. It is clear that their passion for the place and the gentle creatures under their care has kept the sanctuary alive. Through their perseverance, this former hunting ground now serves as an ambassador for the animal kingdom and a symbol of the importance of conservation.

The beach

One of the best beaches in the Calamian Group is located on the southernmost tip of Coron Island.

It can only be reached when the waters are calm, which perhaps partly explains why it is unknown to many. Locals say that a foreigner found the island and named it Coron Virgin, after its glorious *polvoron*-like white sand and super-clear waters.

I was able to reach Coron Virgin on my second attempt. The entire beach is surrounded by a coral reef so our boat could not dock by its shoreline.

To get to the beach, I had to snorkel a distance of 150 meters, or the length of three Olympic-sized swimming pools. But because the waters are so clear, with underwater visibility close to 100 percent, you're too entertained by the wonderful view of abundant marine life to notice the long swim.

My cousins spotted a *pawican* (sea turtle) on their previous trips here. I wasn't as lucky, and a *pawican* sighting remains an elusive dream. But bustling along the reef, I did spot a cuttlefish, a handful of unusual shrimpfish that swim while in a vertical position, and countless large, black sea urchins!

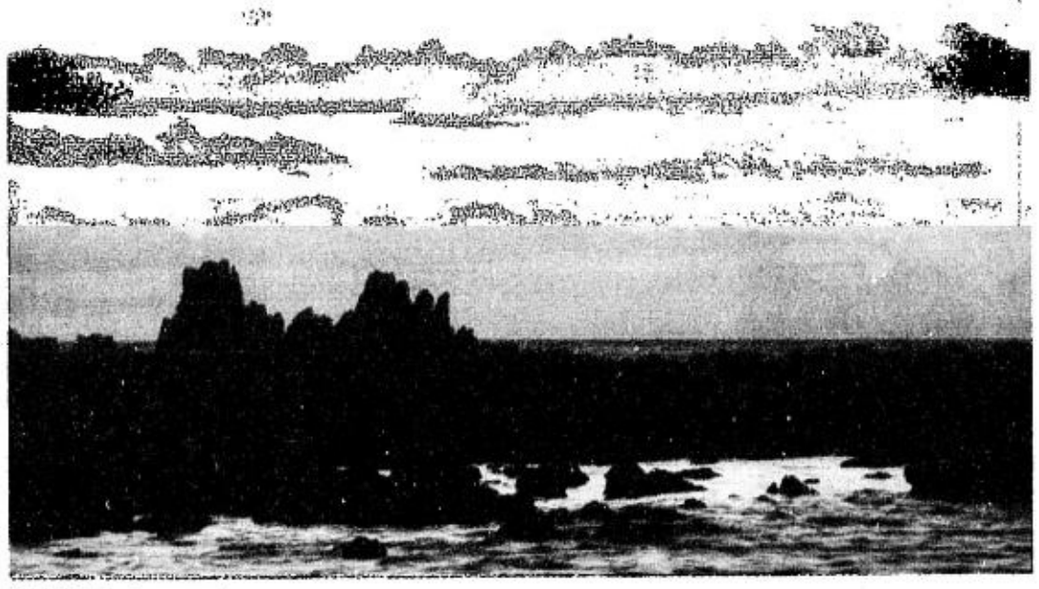
The Calamian Group not only kept its promise of great photo opportunities, but it also did not let me leave without an awesome encounter. My best marine life sighting came while off Pamalican Island just 15 minutes away from North Cay.

We were preparing to have lunch when our boatman shouted, "*Lumba lumba!*"

I did not know that the word means "dolphin," but I soon found out. There was this school of dolphins just 300 meters away. There were around six adults and a baby. I know this for certain because I captured mother and baby on film.

At first they were just swimming near the surface and you could only see their fins. But for some reason or another, they decided to put up a show and started leaping out of the water!

To see dolphins in action, in the wild, is truly incredible. It was an experience I will never forget.



PURPLE at sunset

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Exchange program

PALAWAN Gov. Joel Reyes is developing a travel exchange program for the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) to build the country's domestic tourism base.

"The best way to revive the country's tourism industry at this time of crisis is to promote domestic travel among Filipinos," Reyes said in a statement. "In this way, we will stem the net outflow of tourism spending and, at the same time, reinvigorate the *bayanihan* spirit that is at the core of our cultural heritage. I believe the League of Governors is the best avenue to promote this."

Reyes, who has been appointed chair of the LPP's Southern Tagalog bloc, has initiated his proposed travel exchange program in the region's 11 provinces—Palawan, Aurora, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Quezon, Rizal and Romblon.

The proposed program will involve joint marketing efforts and the grant of special discounts for participants.

Weekend escapades

CAUSEWAY Tours takes you to some of the Philippines' beautiful places in the coming weekends.

On Aug. 24-26, you have a choice between a trip to Zambales, Pangasinan and Tarlac, and a look-see of Cebu and Bohol's great attractions.

On Aug. 31-Sept. 2, visit Cagayan Valley and see the 4-century-old image of Mary, Our Lady of Piat, up close. Or you can tour Baler in Aurora, said to be the most beautiful province of Southern Tagalog. You can enjoy a swim at the Kaunayan Falls, see the biggest and oldest *balete* tree, and visit a fruit farm, among others.

All tours include private transportation, accommodation, breakfasts, a tour guide's assistance, entrance fees, plus some surprises.

For inquiries, call Causeway Tours at 853-8652, 853-8728, or text 0917-3428664.

Spiritual journey

DEVOTEES are invited to take part in a spiritual journey to the Holy Land that includes some historic and religious sights in Egypt and Turkey.

The tour, scheduled on Nov. 4-17, covers Cairo (including the pyramids and the Sphinx of Giza), Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Tabgha, Mt. Tabor, Ein Karem, Bethany, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Bethesda, Mt. Zion, the Wailing Wall, the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, and the Garden of Gethsemane, among others.

Writer-publisher Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre is organizing the tour group. Interested parties may call 815-6925 or 815-4938 or EC 141-101758 for inquiries and reservations.

Biblical expert Fr. Gerry Tapiador is pilgrimage chaplain.

Award winner

READER'S Digest recently presented a Gold Award SuperBrand trophy to Dusit Hotel.

The survey for this year's winners was conducted in October last year in Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines. Each winning SuperBrand was judged according to outstanding performance based on the polled consumers' responses.

Dusit has been consistently winning a string of prestigious industry awards. These include the Best International Hotel Global Achievement Award from the Adams Business Media Group in New York; Best Hotel ("The Core of Thai Traditional Hospitality") award from leading Korean travel trade professionals; and the Pacific Asia Travel Association Gold Award.

Seminar on new teaching techniques Aug. 30-31

ANOTHER seminar on High Impact Classroom Learning Activities, Styles and Strategies (HI Class) will be held Aug. 30-31 at the YMCA International Hostel in Manila.

The HI Class seminar, conducted by the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines, offers for first-time teachers and educators actual classroom applications of the Multiple Intelligences and Learning Styles theories. Call 374-4967 (Vir Macaspac) or 936-6790 (Ruben Gatchalian).

The seminar will feature Tanghalang Henyo Theater Arts integrating mime, puppetry and songwriting in classroom learning activities. Seminar facilitators are Henry Tenedero and Albert Saldajeno Jr.

An earlier seminar was attended by more than 120 public and private schoolteachers and officials from around the country.

New hall inaugurated for PNU's centenary

THE DEAN Rizalina "Mommy" Tomelden Buenaseda Memorial Hall will be inaugurated at 3 p.m., Sept. 2.

The inauguration is one of the highlights of the centennial anniversary celebration of the Philippine Normal University (PNU) from Aug. 27 to Sept. 2.

Located in the main building, the new hall honors the legendary voluntary service, leadership and personal discipline instilled in student leaders by Buenaseda who was dean of student affairs in the '50s and '60s of the then Philippine Normal College. It will be a leadership training and research center and a forum for the exchange of views by Philippine scholars and visiting fellows from overseas.

Alumni, especially graduates of the '50s and '60s and former members of the Voluntary Service Club published by Buenaseda, are invited. The Buenaseda Hall was a project of the PNC Alumni Bachelors Club, which was established in 1964 for scholarship, leadership and service purposes. The club is inviting donations to be made payable to the PNC Alumni Bachelors Club—Dean R.T. Buenaseda Hall Fund Drive, Account No. 1981-1002-35, Land Bank of the Philippines YMCA Branch, Manila.

Copies of bank-stamped deposit slips should be sent for acknowledgment and audit purposes to PNC Alumni Bachelors Club, PNU, VP Office, 3/L Maceda Building, Taft Avenue, Manila.

Meanwhile, members of PNC Class 1960 are invited to a grand reunion during the PNU alumni homecoming on Sept. 2. Contact Class '60 president Dr. Dante Juanita at 527-0367.

Store holds sale to mark city fiesta

PLAZA Fair in Cagayan de Oro City will give away discounts to celebrate the city's fiesta on Aug. 28.

Located at the Limketkai Mall, the store will give from 5-50 percent discounts on selected items until Oct. 31.

Aside from Cagayan de Oro's fiesta, the Fair Group of Stores has another reason to celebrate this August as it marks its 30th anniversary in the retailing business.

Plaza Fair has also paired up with Rednet Reckitt Benckiser for a "Pick and Win a Prize " promo up to Oct. 31. Prizes are at stake.

Customers will also earn points for every P300 worth of purchases at the supermarket, department store and drugstore, which can win them instant prizes.

Public speaking seminar Sept. 10

THE CORPORATE Mind presents "Speaking with Confidence," a workshop aimed at building, improving and projecting confidence in oral communication on Sept. 10 at the Summit Lounge, 29/F Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The speaker is public relations, training and voice image consultant Joscephine Gomez.

Topics include "Throwing away Mental Garbage," "Knowledge of Personality Packaging, Speech and Voice Image, Face and Body Language—Keys to Developing Confidence," "Mental Preparation before Speaking" and "Overcoming Fear".

Call 687-7898, 0919-317-4172, pager 1481-794076 or e-mail jcgomez@edsamail.com.ph or starsoprano@hotmail.com.

An airport that will give a good first impression

(From page C3)

in without leaving the building.

After check-in, passengers proceed directly to the terminal fee booths and on to the departure immigration and security counters, or they could be with their well-wishers at the retail center or food court, both overlooking the check-in area.

After passing through departure, immigration and security, the departing passenger can still shop at the airside retail areas, relax in one of the airline lounges, restaurants or bars, or proceed directly to the lounge of his assigned gate.

Security is of prime importance and all baggage will be processed through the most advanced security technique available. Using equipment installed in Hong Kong and London, all baggage will be automatically screened and tested with the latest technology that significantly reduces "human error." This allows the trained security personnel to concentrate on suspicious luggage. Passengers shall have peace of mind in the knowledge that all their safety concerns are being addressed.

Passengers arriving through one of the contact gates, on the other hand, will pass through an air bridge into the arrival concourse and on to immigration. On their way, they may also enjoy last-minute duty-free shopping. The immigration counter overlooks the baggage claim hall.

After clearing immigration, passengers take escalators, staircases or elevators to the baggage claim hall to reclaim their luggage, which will be on any one of nine large carousels.

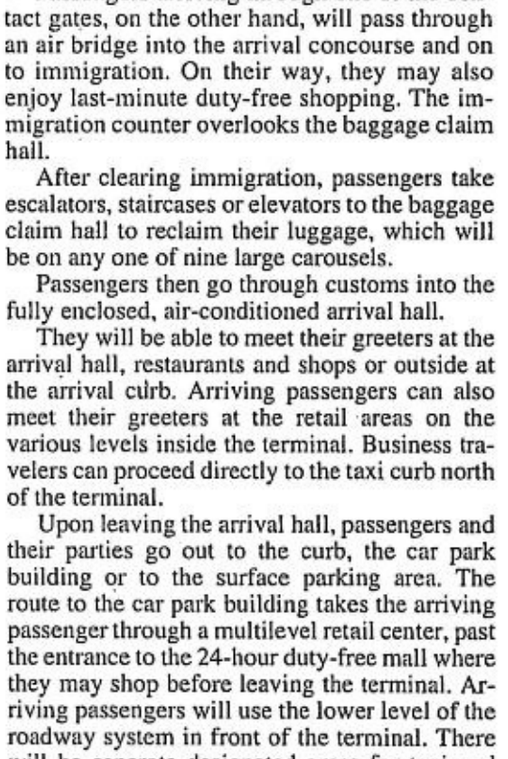
Passengers then go through customs into the fully enclosed, air-conditioned arrival hall.

They will be able to meet their greeters at the arrival hall, restaurants and shops or outside at the arrival curb. Arriving passengers can also meet their greeters at the retail areas on the various levels inside the terminal. Business travelers can proceed directly to the taxi curb north of the terminal.

Upon leaving the arrival hall, passengers and their parties go out to the curb, the car park building or to the surface parking area. The route to the car park building takes the arriving passenger through a multilevel retail center, past the entrance to the 24-hour duty-free mall where they may shop before leaving the terminal. Arriving passengers will use the lower level of the roadway system in front of the terminal. There will be separate designated areas for taxi and VIP/hotel limousine services.

Hopefully, the questions and criticisms being raised will be settled soon. It would certainly be more productive to get our act together so we can finally have an air terminal that will provide jobs for many, give the government the additional revenue that it badly needs and, more importantly, be a gateway to our country that we can truly be proud of.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND. Interiors of Terminal 3 under construction ROGER CARPIO

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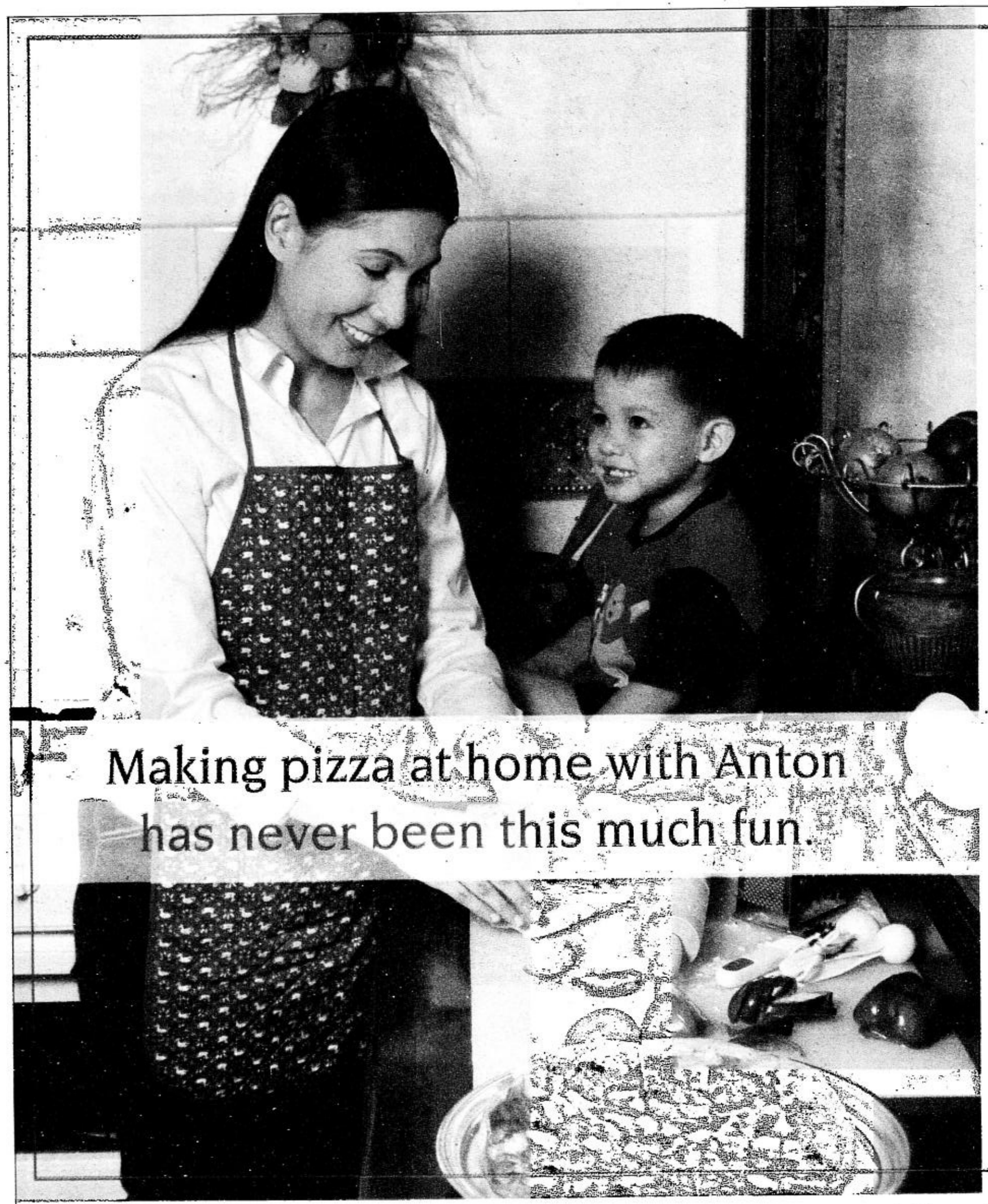


Making pizza at home with Anton has never been this much fun.

Tina, 36, spends time with son, Anton, 5, in the kitchen of their Citta Italia Romagna home.

Home is Citta Italia. For only P11,311 a month.

"It's amazing how much fun you can have with your kids when you're not worried about something

I still remember when we used to rent a small place in a crowded neighborhood in the city. My husband and I felt regretful each time we settled the rent, it was like paying for something that can never be ours. And on top of that, the neighborhood, bad roads and poor security bothered us.

We were pleased when we saw Citta Italia. Crown Asia has always built beautiful homes and fine communities. But we were ecstatic when we learned about the flexible payment options--we could actually afford to ***own*** a home here. The rate was almost as much as our monthly rental fee!

We rarely worry about security and convenience now. My friends love my Italian-inspired villa (they couldn't believe it only takes P11, 311 a month!); and best of all, because I feel more at ease, I spend more quality time with Anton.

There truly is no place like home. But there's nothing like owning the home you live in."

The two-storey Romagna home has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a family room, a maid's room, a viewing deck and a two-car garage, all of which cover 188 sqm of space.

- Citta Italia is situated in Imus, Cavite. Be captivated by its lovely fountain, Romanesque statues, paved streets and sidewalks and Italian-inspired villas.
- Choose a villa from ten Italian styles: Adrianni, Alessandria, Cellini, Francesca, Marci, Medicci, Romagna, Trevi, Venici and Vinci. These have two or three bedrooms and floor areas of 48 sqm to 188 sqm.
- Relax in the premiere clubhouse of Citta Italia, Piazza Italia, which has facilities like swimming pool, basketball court, multi-purpose hall, business center and gym.

View our model houses today, and see the beauty of a furnished Citta Italia home. Call us or visit our booths at Robinson's Place Ermita and Duty Free Philippines near the NAIA.

For more details on other Citta Italia homes, feel free to call us at ***873-6709, 871-3928, 873-1614*** *or visit our website: www.crownasia.com.ph*

CITTA ITALIA

Getting there via Coastal Road: Take the Coastal Road to Zapote, then turn right at Aguinaldo Highway going to Imus until Palico Road. Watch out for Robinmart Grocery on the left. Turn left at Robinmart to Mambog Road. Watch out for the Citta Italia billboard, then turn right at JICA Road. Follow the cemented road until you see Citta Italia on your left.

Via Alabang: Take the Alabang-Zapote Road towards Cavite. Watch out for SM Southmall then turn left at Moonwalk Village to Marcos Alvarez Avenue. Follow the road to Molino (Molino Wet and Dry Market will be your landmark), and turn left. After 200 meters, turn right to Bahayang Pag-asa (Shell Station will be at the corner). Follow directional signs going to Mambog Road until you see Citta Italia on your right.

Via South Superhighway: Take the Carmona exit and follow the national highway towards Puerto Azul. Upon reaching Aguinaldo Highway at the end of the stretch, turn right. You will pass Immaculate Conception Academy, Waltermart, La Salle University, Orchard, Makro, and Robinson's. Watch out for Robinmart Grocery on your right. Turn right at Robinmart to Mambog Road and watch out for the Citta Italia billboard. Turn right at JICA Road and follow the cemented road until you see Citta Italia on your left.

Crown Asia

FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR EMAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Wedding Engagement

LUCA and Adele Calamandrei

A fairy-tale romance that bloomed in Italy

TWO years ago, a young Filipina who was a stranger in Florence, Italy couldn't have imagined that it was the start of a fairy-tale romance when a dashing Florentine gentleman of noble lineage swept her off her feet.

The woman was Adele Velayo, daughter of jeweler Ronnie Velayo and businesswoman Marilyn. The man was Luca Calamandrei, son of Giovanni and Iva Calamandrei.

After being married in civil rites in Florence two years ago, Adele and Luca said their matrimonial vows before God at the Villa San Miguel on July 24. The nuptial Mass was officiated by His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin with Fr. Ramon Dodero as co-celebrant.

Villa San Miguel was more like a personal chapel, which made it very homey. Perhaps this is what gave the wedding its elegance and simplicity, sans the stiff formality of other weddings.

Preceding the Mass was the processional of the groom, sponsors and entourage. What gave the ingress a touch of grandness was the entrance song: "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba—Sinfonia" from "Solomon," one of the immortal masterpieces of Handel, composer of "Messiah."

For the bridal march, Adele personally selected "Sa 'Yo Lamang" by M.V.

A FAIRYTALE/ p.D5

33

Get zed! Get loaded!

Take a shot at over ₱3million worth of prizes when you download zed logos, ring tones and picture messages.

You won't look at life in the same way with a Sony Digital Handycam DCR-PC9 from Get zed! Get loaded! SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text subscribers can download any logo, picture message, icon, or ring tone to get a virtual raffle coupon. The more you download, the better your chances of winning any of the cool Sony, Nike, Nintendo, and Oakley products every week. The Sony Digital Handycam together with other Sony, Compaq, and Piaggio products will also be given away in our grand raffle draws. How's that for getting a different point of view? Hurry and load up on zed now!

Promo until October 7, 2001.

(20) Sony CD Walkman (10) Oakley miracle jacket (10) Nike Triax 56 Laps

33A

www.zed.com

Get zed! Get loaded!

COMPLETE MECHANICS:

1. This promo is only open to **SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text** subscribers.
2. To join the promo, simply key-in JOIN GETZ <name>/<address> and send to 288 prior to downloading. Example: JOIN GETZ Gigi Ocampo/108 Herrera St., Makati City, send to (288). To find out how many virtual entries you have, key-in ENTRY GETZ and send to 288. Key-in HELP GETZ for more information.
3. Once a subscriber registers, he can download or send as many logos, ring tones, picture messages, or icons as he wishes. Every successful transaction entitles you to one (1) virtual raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. In the event that another person registers using the same number, the original name registered will be the one recognized. However, one person can register several mobile numbers at one time.
4. Services qualified are:
   Operator logo : Keyword LOGO
   Group icon : Keyword ICON
   Ring tone : Keyword TONE
   Picture Msg : Keyword PIC
   Subscribers will be charged ₱12.00 for every successful transaction.
5. Should a participant wish to get important key words for the services, he keys in HELP LOGO, HELP TONE, HELP PIC, or HELP ICON and he will receive through text the important key words for the services.
6. All raffle draws will take place at 10:00 a.m., at the Sonera zed Office, 27th Floor, Tower II, Enterprise Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The draw schedule and the promotion period covered are as follows:

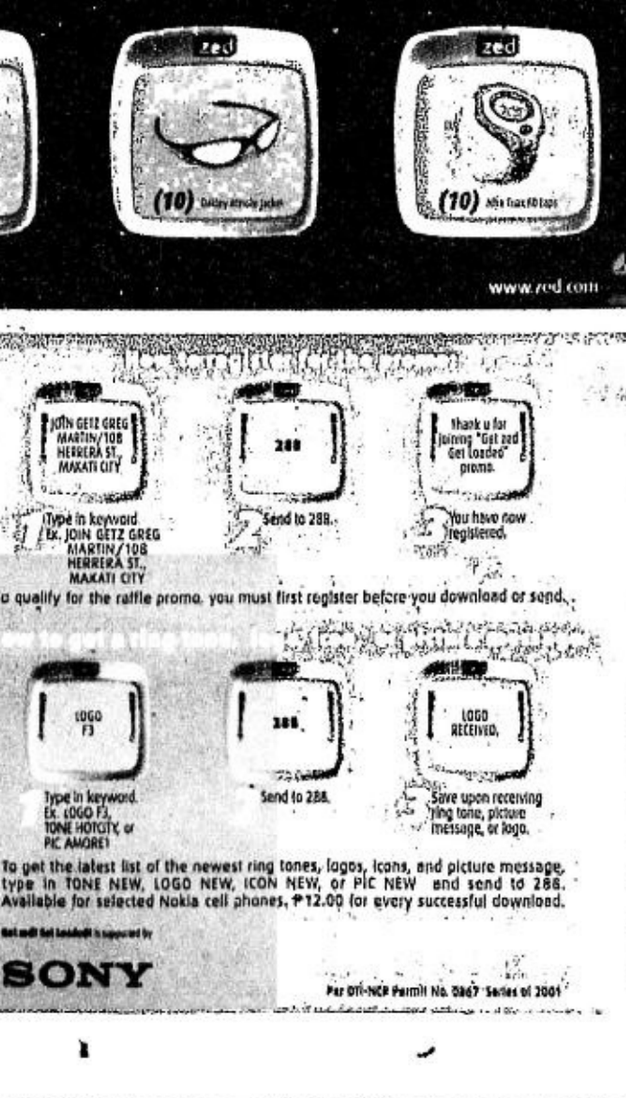
	Promo Period	Draw Date
Week 1	July 29 - August 5, 2001	August 6, 2001
Week 2	August 6 - 12, 2001	August 13, 2001
Week 3	August 13 - 19, 2001	August 20, 2001
Week 4	August 20 - 26, 2001	August 27, 2001
Week 5/ 1st Monthly	August 27 - September 2, 2001	September 3, 2001
Week 6	September 3 - 9, 2001	September 10, 2001
Week 7	September 10 - 16, 2001	September 17, 2001
Week 8	September 17 - 23, 2001	September 24, 2001
Week 9	September 24 - 30, 2001	October 1, 2001
Week 10/ 2nd Monthly	October 1 - 7, 2001	October 8, 2001

Prizes at stake are as follows:

For the 10 Weekly Draws:
(2) Sony CD Walkman
Sony VX Series Mini Component
Sony FD Trinitron WEGA 29" (73.66 cms) KV-XA21M90
Sony Cybershot DSC-FS05V
Sony Digital Handycam DCR-PC9
Gameboy Advance
Nike Triax 56 Laps
Oakley Pensiy
Oakley Miracle jacket

For the 2 Monthly Grand Draws
(4) Compaq iPaq Pocket PC
(2) Piaggio Vespa PX 150
Sony Cybershot DSC-FS05V
Sony Digital Handycam DCR-PC9
Sony FD Trinitron WEGA 34" (86.36 cms) w/ DVD Home Theater System (KV-FS34M80 & DAV-S300)

7. Taxes for all prizes will be shouldered by Sonera zed.
8. A participant can only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize of higher value and another entry will be generated in its place.
9. All winners of the weekly and grand draw will be informed initially via a text message and registered mail. From the date of notification, winners have until 60 days to claim their prize. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of Sonera zed with prior approval from DTI.
10. To claim your prize, please bring your cellular phone with the congratulatory text message, your letter of notification, and a valid ID to Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, 10th Floor, Feliza Building, 108 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. For Vis-Min provincial winners, prizes will be shipped to them and winners will be informed on details of how to claim their prize.
11. Employees of Smart Communications, Sonera zed, Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, as well as non-revenue Smart special subscribers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.



To qualify for the raffle promo, you must first register before you download or send.

To get the latest list of the newest ring tones, logos, icons, and picture message, type in TONE NEW, LOGO NEW, ICON NEW, or PIC NEW and send to 288. Available for selected Nokia cell phones, ₱12.00 for every successful download.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0867 Series of 2001

Watch out for the next weekly draw on August 20, 2001.

The miracles of St. Ignatius

MUSTARD SEED

Joseph Galdon, S.J.

ST. Ignatius of Loyola led a life of holiness, which we must all emulate. He was born in 1491 at Loyola in Spain. He founded the Congregation of the Jesuits in 1540. He died in Rome in 1556 and was canonized as a saint by Pope Gregory in 1622. He's a good example of the Mustard Seed. In the beginning of his life he was only a little seed, but when he matured he became holier. He became one of the biggest of all plants and many birds (persons) made their nests in his branches.

Spiritual journey

The life of Ignatius was a spiritual journey. His goal was to do what God wanted him to do. In his own words, he said: "I want to find God in all things in my life." The miracle of Ignatius began in Loyola. In his early life, he served in the government of the Spaniards. While in the service of the military, Ignatius became a military defender in Pamplona when the French attacked the Spanish. The French overcame the Spanish defenders. Ignatius' leg was wounded by a cannon ball of the French. He returned to Loyola and became ill. To ease his illness he read books on the lives of saints.

When he recovered, Ignatius traveled to Montserrat where he made his confession and declared his fidelity to Christ by making a night-long vigil in front of the statue of the Blessed Mother. He left his sword and dagger in front of her statue. Right there and then, the military warrior became spiritual. He then went to Manresa where he led a spiritual life for 11 months.

In his spiritual exercises Ignatius maintained: "Day by day, Oh dear Lord, three things I pray—to know You more clearly, love You more dearly and follow You more nearly!" He also said: "Here I am, Lord, It is I, Lord! I have heard You calling me in the night. I will go, Lord, where You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart!" That was his commitment to the miracles of holiness in his life.

Followers

The other miracle of Ignatius was the foundation of the Congregation of the Jesuits. His holiness also inspired a lot of people to serve Jesus. His miracle of life and gift of leadership gathered a lot of followers who accepted a life of poverty and chastity and obeyed the will of God. Thus Ignatius brought into the world and the Church a congregation of holiness that is important for us all. That is the second miracle in his life.

Good for us

The miracles of Ignatius are very good lessons for us. A miracle is a reminder of God's loving presence. It is very true that we must all be followers of Jesus. The Gospel says, "Unless you change and become like Jesus, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Thank You, Lord, for giving us the example of St. Ignatius in our lives! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OUTSTANDING TEACHERS INVITED TO US
Heide Bronke (right), assistant cultural affairs officer of the United States Embassy's Public Affairs Section, and Aniceto Sobrepena (left), Metrobank Foundation executive director, congratulate Evelyn Caja (second, right) of the Ramon Magsaysay High School and Josephine Calamiam of the Philippine Normal University, winners of the Metrobank Foundation's 2001 Search for Outstanding Teachers Award. As part of their award, the teachers will go to the US under the American government's International Visitor Program to observe the latest methods in English teaching and special education.

TRUE Value reopened recently its newly renovated branch at the 6/L of the Shangri-La Mall. The 1,200-sq m store now boasts of warmer interiors, wider aisles and easy-to-find sections to serve its growing number of clients. From (L-R): Alex M. Recto, True Value director; Aurelio Montinola III, BPI senior executive vice president and guest of honor; Lala Fojas, general manager of Shangri-La Mall; Alfonso M. Recto Jr., True Value president; and Jiro M. Estaniel, interior designer.

Mag helps brides prepare for 'the big day'

ILLAC Diaz and Ces Drilon announce the winners as Chet Espino picks the raffle winners.

MPC president Chet Espino and Steve Tamayo of Tamayo's Restaurant and Catering

MARATHON Publishing vice president for marketing Malou Sison with SM's senior assistant vice president Millie F. Dizon

MARATHON Publishing Company has launched Weddings Magazine, which promises to be the quintessential bridal magazine and every bride's best friend as she prepares for the most important day of her life.

The magazine, which will initially come out every two months, is a sister publication of Baby Magazine. It was inspired by the growing bridal industry (wedding coordinators, florists, souvenir makers, hotels and restaurants), and also thousands of couples who still believe in the sanctity of marriage.

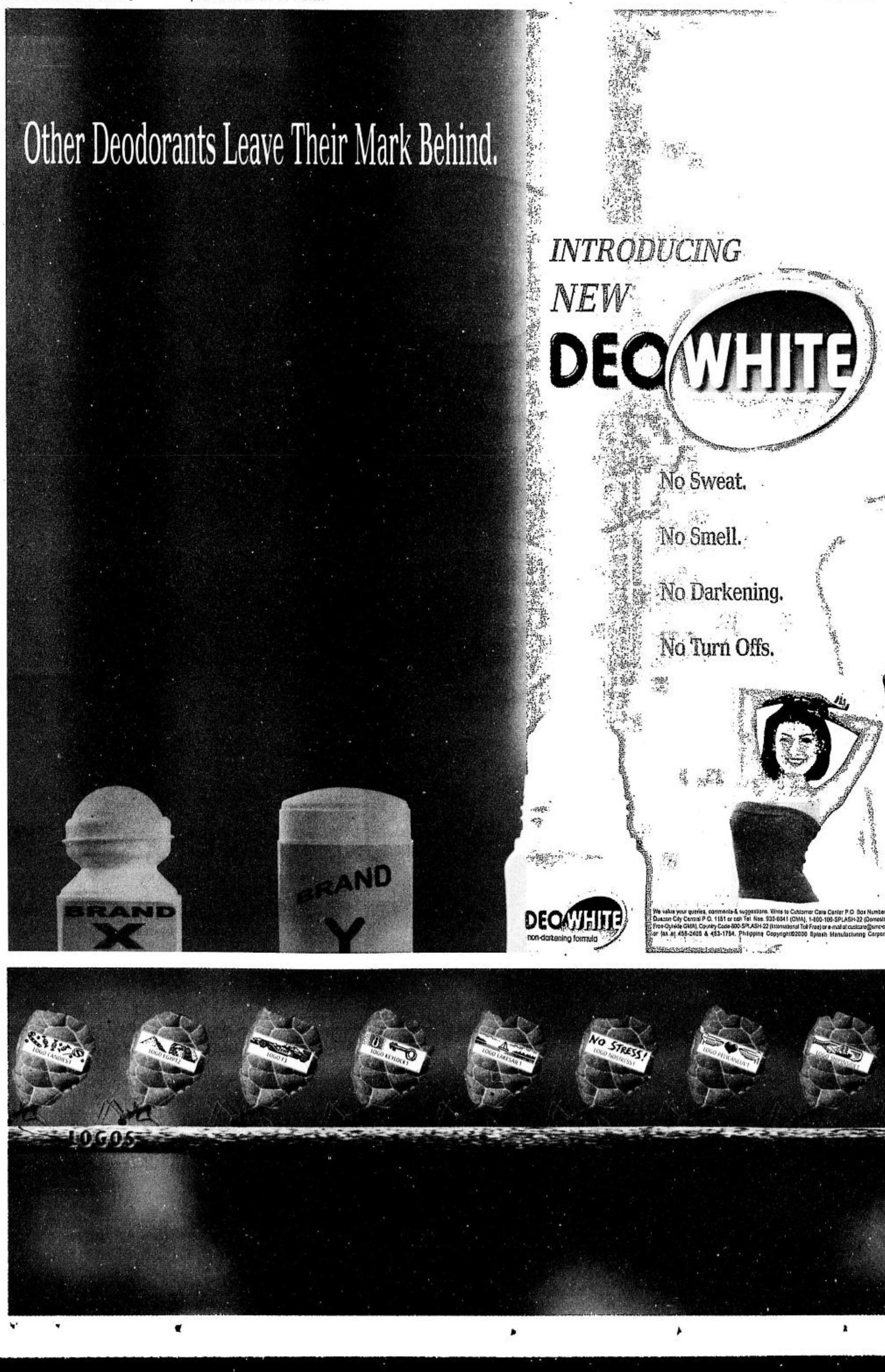
The magazine will feature pictorials of bridal gowns and fashions for the entourage as well. It will carry articles to help the bride come up with ideas for making her D-day unique and truly personal.

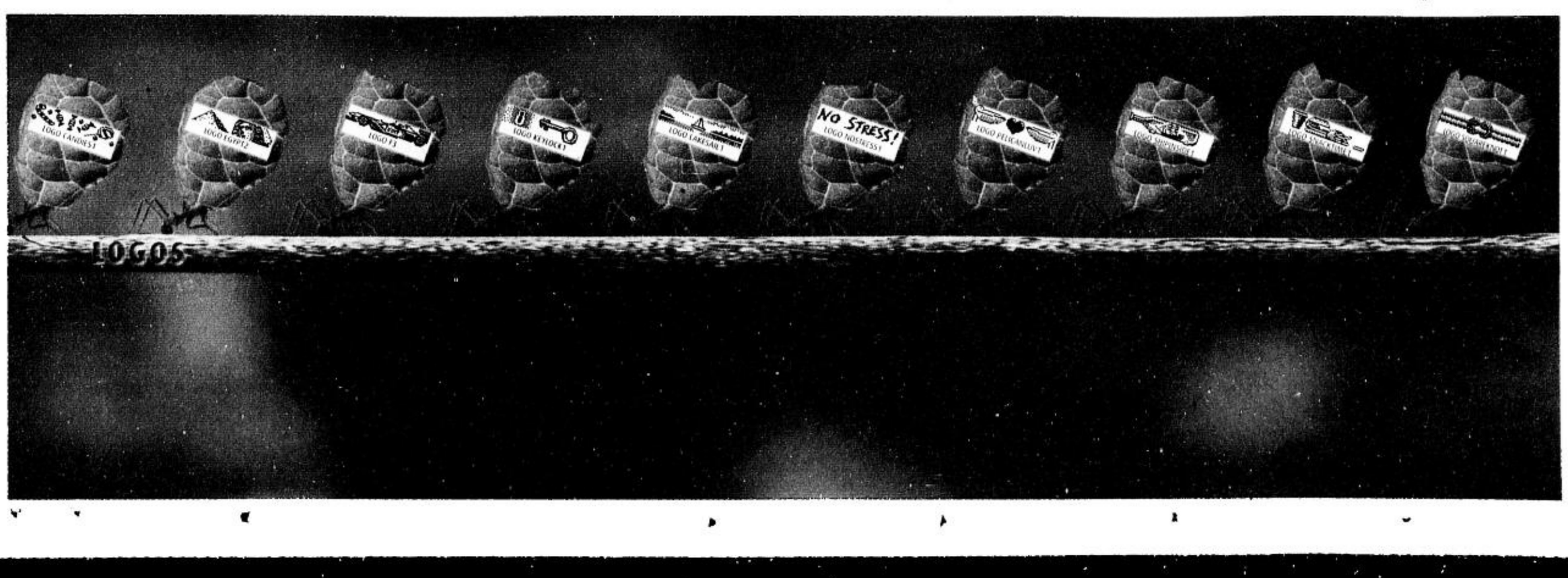
Designer Frederick Peralta generously lends his expertise as fashion editor, promising to make it both reader-friendly and industry-friendly.

Aside from fashion spreads, Weddings will also have articles on relationships, legal matters, sex, the creative bride, real couples who are getting hitched. It will offer tips on beauty and fitness, a complete wedding planner that charts the bride's progress in her planning, a bridal directory which lists down important suppliers, etc.

Weddings Magazine is also set to hold a bridal fair and fashion show on Oct. 5-6 at the Glorietta Activity Center. Rita Neri, wedding coordinator of The Wedding Store, is the event's organizer.

MARGIE Quimpo Espino, Donnie Tantoco, general manager of Shopwise; Frances Yu, Shopwise marketing manager; Chet Espino and Crickette Tantoco, Shopwise VP for operations





DAVID DEBUT

Shayne S. David, daughter of Albert and **Susan David**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Aug. 25 at the Convention Center of the Riverbend Hotel, Marikina City.

A hotel and restaurant management sophomore at St. Paul's College, Pasig City, Shayne will wear a gown of organza in monochromatic hues by **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez**. The princess-cut gown has spaghetti straps, with shantung rosebuds, gold pearls and sugar beads.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

VILLANUEVA-DE OCAMPO SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Edwin David Villanueva, safety and environmental engineer of Intel Philippines, and **Leonisa de Ocampo Villanueva**, chief IRDO of the Philippine Ports Authority Trnining Center, marked their silver wedding anniversary by renewing their vows Aug. 13 at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church, Palanan, Makati City. Reception followed at the Aloha Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The bride and her entourage wore gowns designed by **Thelma Daquioag**. The bride's gown was a silver gray, fully beaded three-piece ensemble of duchess satin and Swiss organdy, embellished with cut glass, beads and crystals.

LO DEBUT

Stephanie Marianne Lo, daughter of **Benito** and **Caroline Lo**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Sept. 1 at the Palawan Ballroom of the Edsa Plaza Hotel. She is a hotel and restaurant management freshman at the College of St. Benilde.

The debutante will wear three gowns by **Eric Pineda**. For her presentation, she will wear a one-shoulder silk taffeta gown in matte gold with gold and pink jet beads, paillettes and faux pearls. The second gown, a ball gown with a haltered corset top in monochromatic orange and a petticoat, will be worn for her *cotillion de honor*. Afterward, she will change into a rose pink jersey gown with a deep bare back.

Pineda also designed the matte gold strapless gowns of the members of the cotillion.

GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, DECS intensify anti-TB campaign

The educational campaign against tuberculosis (TB) and other respiratory diseases in the Philippines is breaking new ground in schools nationwide with GlaxoSmithKline Foundation and the Department of Education, Culture & Sports (DECS) leading the way.

Now on its second year, the "TCP Laban sa TB" program continues its commitment to educate a large number of grade six pupils and their parents about TB by providing them with basic information tools. These specially designed workbooks contain comprehensive information about TB – its cause, transmission, prevention and control. Using the TCP (Teacher-Child-Parent) approach, the program is designed to encourage interaction between teacher and child through classroom discussions, and child and parent through take-home assignments.

This year, GlaxoSmithKline coordinated with DECS division offices in five provinces to implement the program in the schools' curriculum. A total of 686 schools from the provinces of Ilocos Sur, Biliran, Sarangani, Siargao and Sorsogon will be participating in the program.

To measure the effectiveness of the program, a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey on TB will be conducted among the teachers, pupils and parents. The information collected from these monitoring sessions will serve as baseline data upon which future policies and programs will be formed.

Prevention and treatment of TB are attainable as long as people are armed with the proper knowledge. Patient education and treatment compliance are key in making TB a lesser threat to the Filipino's health.

gsk GlaxoSmithKline

ARENAS DEBUT

Katherine Bernice Ching Arenas, daughter of engineer **Alberto** and **Barbara Arenas**, celebrated her 18th birthday with a grand cotillion Aug. 18 at the Isla Ballroom of Edsa Plaza Hotel. Kat is an architecture sophomore at Mapua Institute of Technology.

The debutante wore an iridescent satin coral pink gown with an asymmetric chiffon strap and a ball skirt embellished with caviar sequins, beads and scattered embossed flowerets, designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**. Baddeo also created the gowns in wine burgundy for the cotillion members.

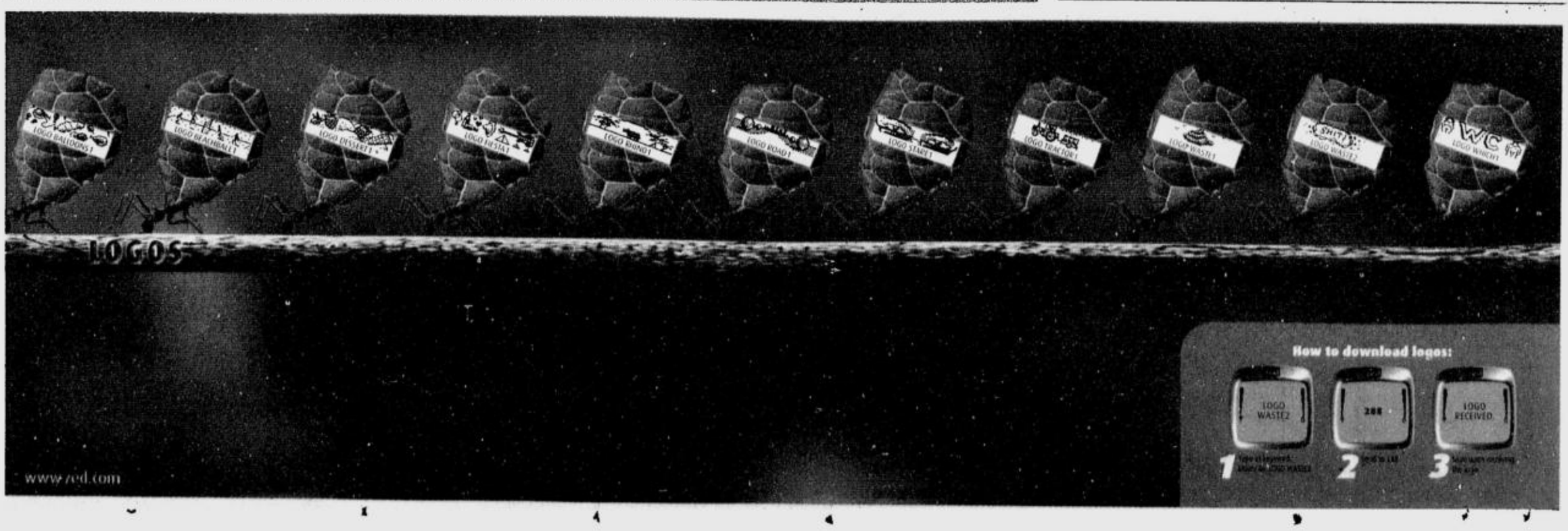
Eric Maningat did the hair and makeup.

MAGUIRE-MAGSIPOC

Alma Politico Magsipoc, daughter of **Margarita Politico** and the late **Salvador Magsipoc**, married **John Patrick Anthony Maguire** at the Malate Catholic Church July 21. Rev. Fathers **Michael Martin, Kevin McHugh** and **Edwin Tibayan** officiated at the ceremonies. Dinner reception followed at the Galaxias Ballroom of the Manila Diamond Hotel. The couple will reside in Ireland.

PRIOR-MEHLER

Christopher Warren Prior, son of Mr. and Ms **Bradley Prior**, and **Janice Elsa Mehler**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Larry Gillham**, exchanged vows on Aug. 18 at Christ the King Church, 624 North Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, California.



A fairy-tale romance that bloomed in Italy

(From page D1)

Francisco.

The aisle was covered with petals of white and red roses—the favorite of the bride—giving the short bridal march a dream-like atmosphere.

Since the two families were of different nationalities, the missalette and the bridal entourage were both in English and Italian.

Many of those who attended the wedding could have sworn that it looked like Adele and Luca were being married for the first time. The bride was blushing and the groom was fidgety.

During the rites of marriage, the classical instrumental music of Johann Sebastian Bach, "Aria in G" and "Ariosi," was played by the Velvet Mood Ensemble.

Even during the pictorials at the end of the Mass, the air was grand. Background music included: "All I Ask of You," (from "Phantom of the Opera" by Andrew Lloyd Weber) and "O Mare e Tu" by Andrea Bocelli and Dulce Pontes.

Indoor garden reception

Then came the reception, preceded by welcome cocktails, at the Conservatory of Manila Peninsula. The venue was transformed into an indoor garden, with roses—most of it red—and other flowers abloom. Burgundy was the motif and the table mantels were creations of Patis Tesoro. This acclaimed designer of Filipina couture also created the bridal gown and dresses of her entourage. Shoes and bags were by Lila Almario.

Floral arrangements and the centerpieces which were accented with tropical fruits, were done by Rustan's Flower Shop. Many hotel patrons found the huge floral arrangements at the entrance to the reception area awesome.

Albie Velayo, the younger sister of the bride, gave an insightful welcome speech, which delved a lot on how Adele and Luca met, fell in love and got married. Albie still vividly remembers how, five Christmases ago, Adele confided in her that, "I'm so in love with Luca that I can't stand it."

"To this day," Albie related in jest, "[my dad] likes to blame my mom for choosing Luca's apartment among the many options available to Polimoda's student housing." But fate has a strange way of intervening beyond any one's control.

Then came the main courses. Italian red and white wines were served to complement each dish.

The wedding reception was typically Italian where the bride and groom are the centers of attention. Luca and Adele personally gave away their "favor"—giveaways as we commonly call it here—composed of almond candies and silver coat of arms of the Calamandreis that Ronnie Velayo, the jeweler, personally crafted.

It was then the turn of the groom's father, Giovanni, to offer a toast to the success and happiness of the newlyweds. And who else would translate for Giovanni but his daughter-in-law, Adele?

Ronnie Velayo likewise offered a toast to Luca and Adele.

After her dad's toast, it was finally Adele's turn to thank everyone for such unforgettable day.

In between courses, Adele was indeed surprised when she realized that Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez were performing in her wedding as a special gift of her mother, Marilyn S. Velayo. Robert and Isay capped their performance with a duet that opened the dance floor. It was the signal for ballroom dancing time, with live music provided by the band Mullato.

Adele and Luca, together with their guests, danced until the break of dawn which was capped by a very early breakfast.

Alas, everyone went home with a happy heart and uttered a simple but sincere prayer that Luca and Adele live happily ever after.

VELAYO FAMILY. Carlos Primo Velayo III, Marilyn, Adele, Albie and Ronnie Velayo

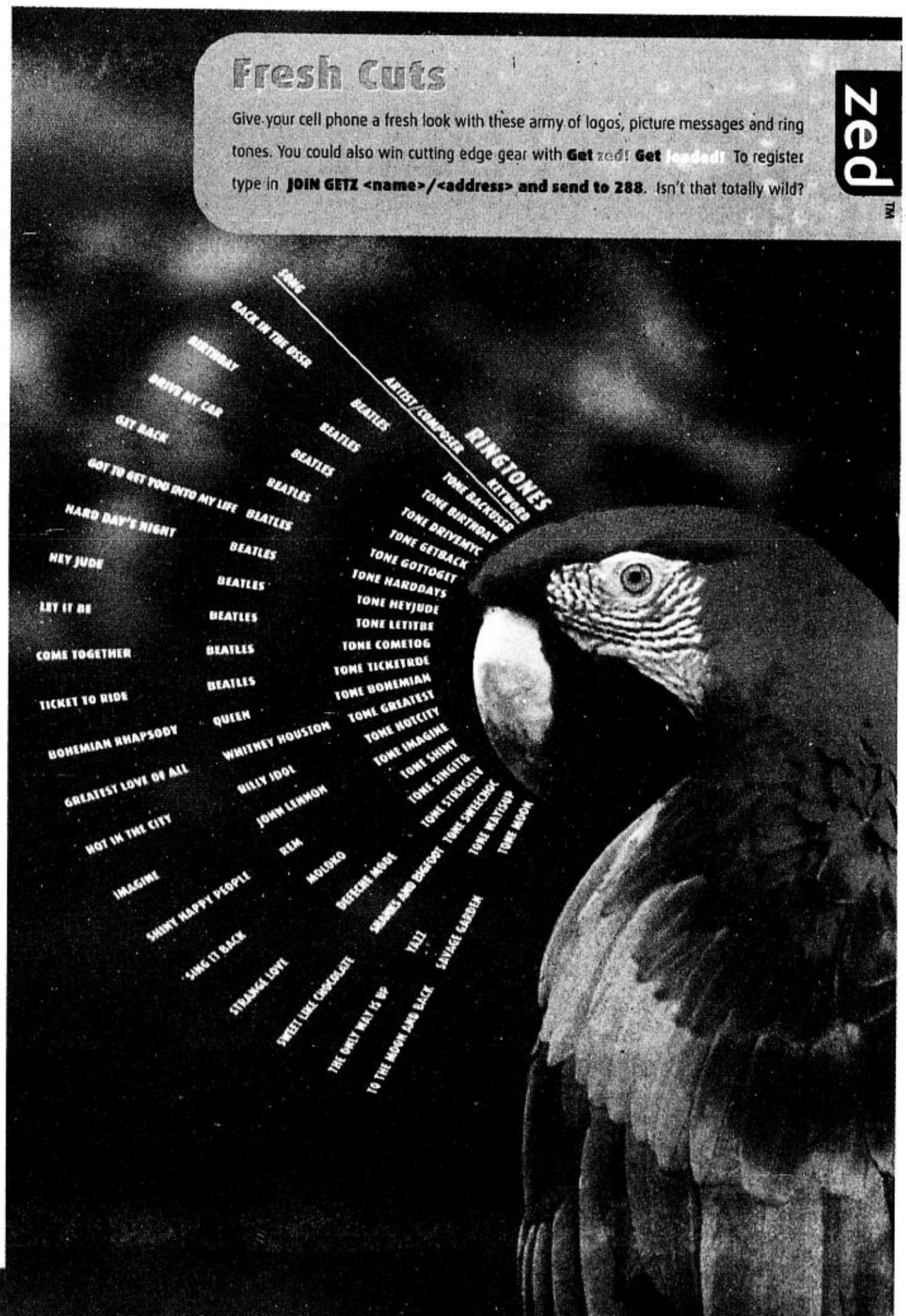
WITH CALAMANDREI FAMILY. Giovanni, Iva and Lisa Calamandrei

LUZ Mendoza Santos, grandmother of the bride, and Rizalino Mendoza

LORENZO and Valentina Ravalli

ROSANNA Villamor, Carina Amparo, Arantxa Santos, Christine Velayo and Albie Velayo

RONNIE Velayo, Boots de Venecia, Albie Velayo, Maritess Mendoza Pineda, Mite Bantug Rufino and Oskie de Venecia



Drink-all-you-can promo is misleading

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

GONE are the days when customers can expect to get what bar owners advertise for their special happy-hour promotion. For instance, when they offered discounted rates on drinks consumed from 6-10 p.m., they did exactly what they promised.

They don't do that now, complained businessman Dave Santos. He and his colleagues shared their experiences at this theme bar and restaurant attached to a hotel on Timog Avenue. The bar had a prominent streamer advertising: "Drink all you can—P99+ every night from 6-10 p.m. Nonstop drinking on all local beers."

Santos wrote: "Four of us decided to try out the bar. Finding a clean, comfortably air-conditioned bar with a good sound system, we immediately sent text messages telling friends to join us."

Their first order was a disappointment. They found out that instead of the "all local beer" advertised on the streamer, the bar only served during the happy-hour a foreign-brand beer that was reproduced locally. Nonetheless, they ordered one round, their mouth already watering for ice-cold beer.

The happy hour eventually turned sour as the group ordered another round at about 8:45 p.m. and was informed by the waiter that happy hour ended at 9 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. as advertised. Expectedly, Santos and company protested. But the bar staff came up with the explanation that the promo printed on the streamer was an honest mistake and that they had meant to correct it but they never got down to it.

To cut the story short, the customers decided to pay the bill. "We felt gypped. My friends and I hope that this incident will encourage the bar owner to be more honest with their customers," Santos wrote.

So there you have it, guys. When you see bar signs advertising "drink all you can," don't bite it hook, line and sinker.

Buying woes

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry should assign more complaints desks at shopping malls to assist the growing number of distressed consumers. Here are some complaints:

V. de Guzman <vincedg@I-manila.com.ph> wrote that he bought a pair of rubber shoes at a sporting goods store. It was for his father who couldn't make it to the store. Unfortunately, it did not fit. He went back to the store to change the shoes for another brand but the storeowner told him to stick to the same brand. When he asked further if he could return the shoes in case it was not the right fit, he was told that the store could only change the item once. Luckily, the shoes fit. De Guzman wanted to know, "Whatever happened to customer satisfaction?"

* * *

From Grace.Tan@grandhyatt.com.ph: "I bought some items from a shop in Robinsons Ermita although I was disgruntled by the unpleasant attitude of the store staff. I was made to wait for 10 minutes while a sales clerk tried to find the price for an angel photo frame that I wanted to buy. Another clerk said that she couldn't sell the item for lack of a price. I asked her, what if a customer wants to buy the item now? She was irked and told me to look for the item in another store.

"I have been working in the hotel industry here in Hong Kong for almost six years and we are always happy to entertain complaints. We apologize to guests when we have to. I hope sales clerks do that in the Philippines so as not to turn off customers."

* * *

A dissatisfied customer has this advice to Abenson and other appliance stores: Please check the units very well before the goods are delivered to customers.

Nestor Santos <jsgibber@hotmail.com> related to us that he bought two units of air conditioners from Abenson in Shangri-La. The first unit was okay when it was delivered and installed. But the other air conditioner was a surprise. According to Santos, the plastic casings were already open and seemingly tampered with, the materials were incomplete, the unit appeared to be defective and the warranty agreement was ripped off. The store sent a technician to check the unit after Santos complained. "Appliance stores should give a thorough check of their products before delivery," Santos wrote.

More comments from readers

SOME people unwind after office hours at bars or coffee shops. These three folks decided to play the slot machines at Casino Filipino-Heritage. But instead of relaxing, they were annoyed by the cheap chatter of a slot machine attendant. Lawyer A. Cruz, J. Reyes and Dr. E. Agoncillo wrote: "This attendant kept on babbling at the top of her voice to the other attendants about her personal affairs with a certain Tom, and we couldn't concentrate on the game. I hope that through this letter, the casino supervisor will teach slot machine attendants about proper conduct on the job."

* * *

R. de Leon of blue111edsamail.com.ph wrote: "I have been fond of cheese since I was a kid. I've noticed lately that many local cheese products including popular brands are drier and they crumble when you slice them. It is difficult to slice them straight and prevent chunks from coming off the main block. Are cheese makers cutting short on ingredients to economize at the expense of quality? One cheese brand that seems to be better than others is Eden."

* * *

This is a message for the manufacturers of Nido from CCruz@my.smart.com.ph: "Please provide bigger cans (e.g. 1.8 kg) of Nido Fortified. My son loves it."

* * *

Michael S. <Mmsaguin@skyinet.net> wrote: "I felt vindicated when I read the news that this big fast-food chain lost a legal battle over injuries sustained by a customer in its Katipunan branch. This was the same branch that nullified my reservation for a kiddie birthday party last year on the day I was supposed to give them the downpayment. My reservation was given to another customer who beat me in paying earlier. They did not even apologize. As a result, I had to look for another venue for my kid's party at the last minute."

Billing woe

ROCHELLE C. <rochf10@yahoo.com> warns consumers to make sure they receive their monthly bills on time. She shares her experience with readers: "Infocom sent us a billing advisory that we had zero balance. However, after a couple of months, their next bill was for P24,150.54! We were not aware we had accumulated so much and we don't even know the details. What steps should we take?"

Send complaints and comments to mariettagiron@hotmail.com

On shops selling orthopedic stuff

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

This is in response to the requests of your two letter senders (PDI Lifestyle, 06/01/01).

To Mary Jane Oliva: I recently came across some street shops selling orthopedic stuff (wheelchairs, prosthesis, crutches and the like) one Sunday when I had breakfast at McDo Banawe. The shops are across McDonald's and more can be found in front of the National Orthopedic Hospital.

If you're coming from Quezon City going to Welcome Rotonda, turn right on Banawe and go straight. It's the second McDo you'll see, not the first one at the corner of Quezon Avenue. The cost of an artificial leg is around P20,000, a shopkeeper said.

I also want to give some money to Rebecca Capunong so she can buy reading materials while scouting for scholarship funding. I'd like to pledge P3,000 to Mary Jane and P1,000 to Rebecca. But I have no idea how to reach them. I would also want to remain anonymous.

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. I have read about this many times in your column. But all things come to pass and he/she who holds on to God wins in the end. Life is not perfect but it's time to pass on the light.

SCHELIENA

Thank you for your kind thoughts and offering.

If Mary Jane Oliva and Rebecca Capunong will write to me their addresses, I will pass them on to you.

Scholarship

I AM very happy to inform you that I just got a scholarship from the CAP Group of Companies. Akiko Thompson read my letter and recommended me to their Dearcap scholarship program. I am in my fourth year taking up AB History.

Please allow me to thank you and all the readers, who, through their prayers, have helped me in my search for a miracle, in particular Rick Garcia whose kindness touched me in many ways. I hope to be worthy of you all. God bless.

DADA

All things work for the good of those who love the Lord. Good luck, *hija*, offer each day to Him.

For Gabrielle

I'VE been reading you and never thought that a time will come when I will be asking for your help. My concern is about the reply of a certain Gabrielle who wrote about the organization she is currently connected with—The Community of Learners. I've tried to reach her by e-mail, but the address no longer exists. I really want to communicate with her because I am interested to join. May I have the contact number of Gabrielle?

The best way I can help you is to include here your cell phone number (0917) 837-5505 and your e-mail <precy_cueta@yahoo.com>. Let's hope Gabrielle will call you, because I do not have her address.

Reaction to two problems

CONCERNING Upset Girl's letter (07/20/01): I'd like to help, but spiritually. Financially, I have friends who are in a better position to help, but most of them are married.

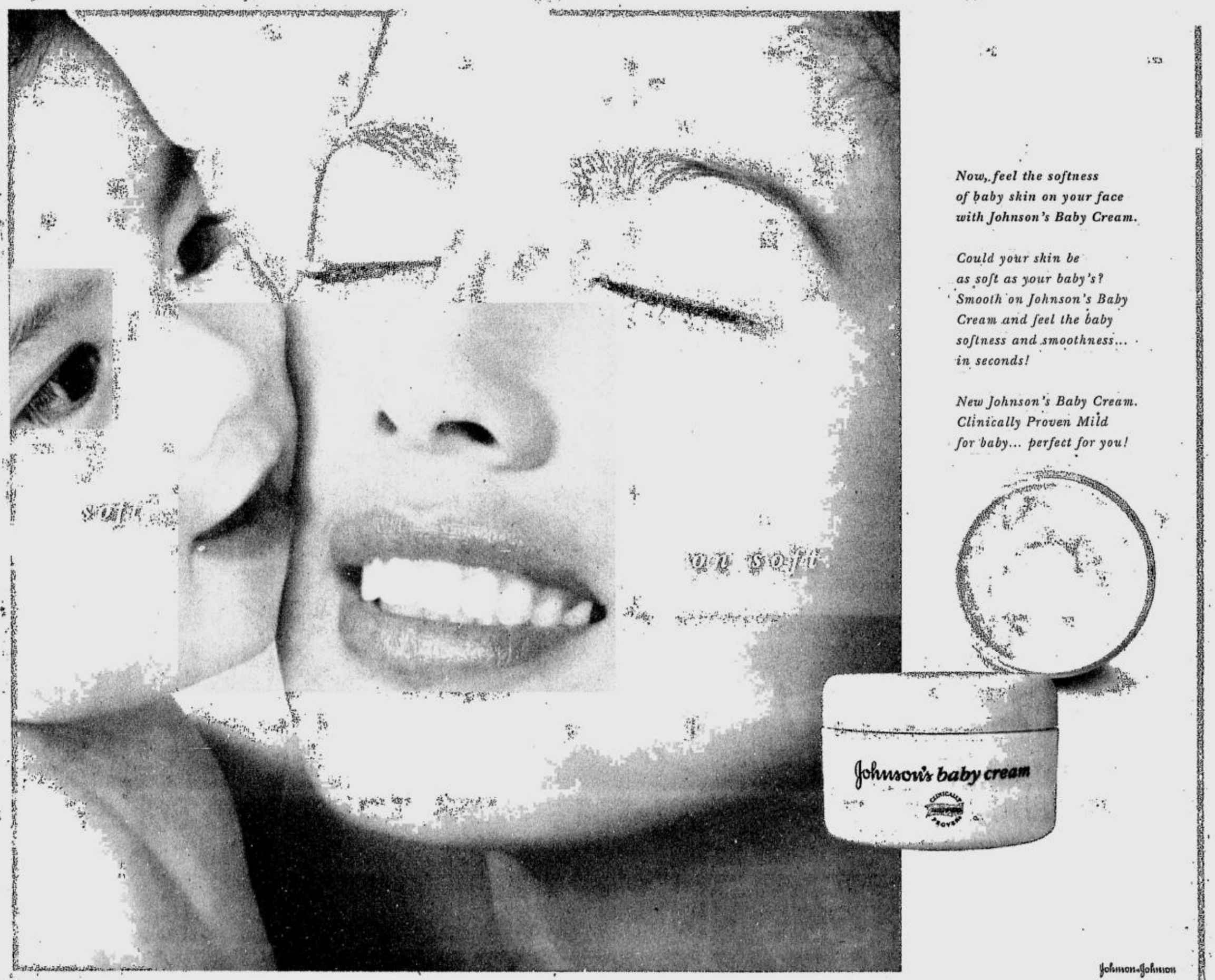
What talent does she have—dancing, singing, painting? Let her be reminded that there are many people now who have made it, despite not having education. As they say, a diploma is just a piece of paper. Of course, this is not to say that education is not important. Is it possible for her to find a job, like being on service crew in a fast-food restaurant? She can get in touch with me through e-mail, or at my address—25 Hereford St., Project 8, Bahay Toro, QC.

Regarding Monique, maybe her relatives are just pressured that she feels she is being stepped on. Or maybe they are not contented, they want everything their way. Is she in Manila? Will she transfer jobs? Let her be reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew 5:11-12: "Blessed are you when people insult you, be glad for great is your reward in heaven." Also in Romans 12:14: "Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse." I also want to hear from her. E-mail me at mggaerlan@edsamail.com.ph

MAGIC GAERLAN

Your reminders can also help many others. Thank you.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



Bridal-debutante fair Sept. 1-2

HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field holds its first-ever bridal and debutante fair on Sept. 1-2 at its Grand Ballroom.

Exhibitors in the two-day event, "Nostalgia: Bride and Debutante Fair 2001," are the best wedding and debutante party suppliers in Pampanga.

The fair will feature hair, makeup and floral arrangement demonstrations and a talk on wedding coordination. In the afternoon, Ta Deum Choir, singers Jay and Karla Bondoc and the Noel Lopez jazz band will perform.

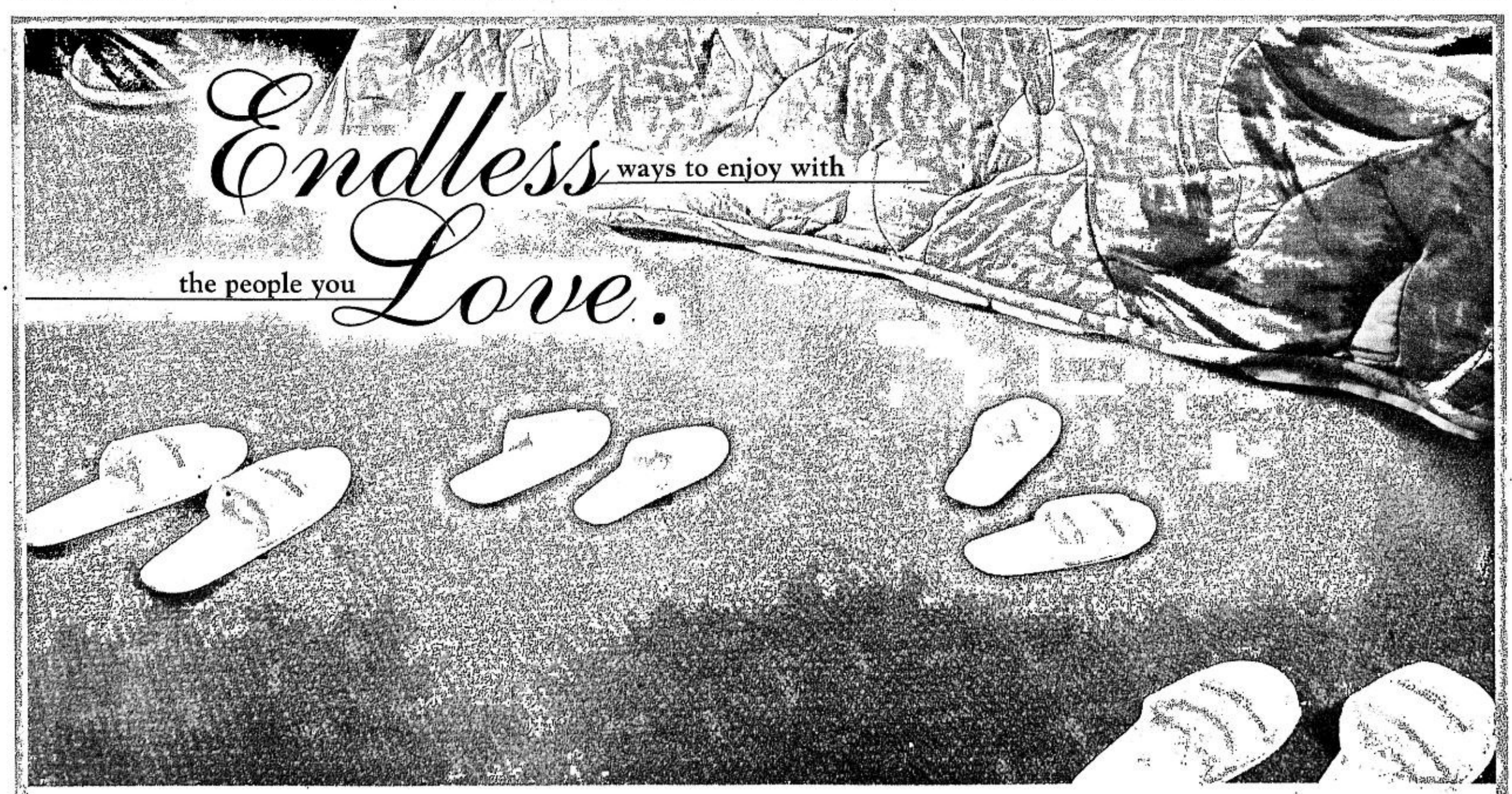
Highlight of the fair is a fashion show on Sept. 1 featuring the creations of La Casal, Noel Calma, Rommel Balajadia and Manny Ocampo. The Holiday Inn Resort banquet sales team will give expert advice on how to make a wedding or debut a memorable occasion.

Call 845-1888 or (045) 599-8000.

Seminar on law libraries

THE PHILIPPINE Group of Law Librarians Inc. will hold a three-day seminar on "Law Libraries: Facing the Challenges on Research," on Aug. 22-24, at the Pearl Manila Hotel, UN Avenue corner Taft Avenue, Manila.

Topics include the latest E-Commerce act and the rules on electronic evidence, environmental protection, gender and development, women's rights, children and family law. Call 521-7223, 524-2706, 818-6301, local 256.



Wedding in windswept church caps 7-year romance

NINONGS Tony Chua, Romeo Grifal, Oscar Fuentes, Willy Co and Florante dela Cruz

NINANGS Mia Lim, Dee Swan Go, Emma Borlaza, Flor Limjoco and Eusebia Chua

THE NEWLYWEDS with Brian Medina, Jomas Castillo, Marica Cabrera, Gina Campos and Cindy Ochoa

BY DONNIE RAMIREZ

OLIVER "Bem" Torrechante, senior marketing analyst of Northwest Airlines-ITI, almost literally took Cherry Chan on the wings of love when they were married on a lovely mid-afternoon at the windswept Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and The Life in the Manila Bay reclamation area.

The wedding capped a seven-year romance that started in 1993 when they were introduced by mutual friends at a party. In keeping with Chinese tradition, a feng shui expert was consulted on the auspicious date and time for the wedding.

Bem is the eldest of three children of Dr. Constante Torrechante and the former Lorna Carmen Borlaza. He graduated from De La Salle University with a bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics. Cherry is the youngest of six children of sugar planters Benito and Alejandra (nee Co) Chan of Tarlac. She studied International Business at Assumption College.

The tall and clean-cut groom wore an embroidered *piña barong* by Joe Carbon, while his petite bride looked radiant in a simple white and baby blue silk satin gown designed by Letlet Veloso. The officiating priest was Fr. Ferdinand Guiang.

The charming little church by the bay was scented by the fragrant fresh blooms from florist Tony Rodriguez who also did the decor for the dinner reception at the ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Manila.

Principal sponsors were the couples' aunts and uncles Emma Borlaza, Flor Limjoco, Oscar Fuentes, Romeo Grifal, Willy Co and Jose Chua; longtime family friends Mia Lim, Florante dela Cruz and Dee Swan Go; Assistant Secretary Ma. Theresa Martinez of the Department of Tourism; and former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

Bem's cousin Ronald Maliwat was best man and Cherry's best friend Michell Ivon Chon was matron of honor.

Bridesmaids were Joanne Kathlene Chan and Althea Torrechante while groomsmen were Joshua Dwight Borlaza and Erwin Raymond Borlaza. Cecilia Borlaza and Michael Chua were candle sponsors; Anna Marie Atienza and Reginaldo Vetus, veil sponsors; and Frances Oco and Allan Musa, cord sponsors. The little attendants were Patrick Alberto, Cassius Lao, Miguel Maliwat, Darianne Navarro, Alexandra Co and Michaela Borlaza.

Melody Yamsuan, who also works at Northwest, sang during the church rites while Bernie Pasamba's four-string ensemble entertained the guests at the reception.

After the dinner of lobster bisque, medley of salmon fillet and mushroom-stuffed chicken breast and chocolate pudding topped with strawberry ice cream, Bem and Cherry's young friends kept the party going with naughty toasts to the beaming newlyweds. In September, Bem and Cherry will leave for New York and Los Angeles—on board Northwest Airlines, of course—for their delayed honeymoon.

To Bem and Cherry, may the Lord give you the grace of love and peace, grant you the fullness of life and bless your union with beautiful, healthy children. Congratulations!

THE NEWLYWEDS. Oliver Bem Torrechante and Cherry Chan

SECONDARY sponsors Althea Torrechante, Pinky Borlaza and Frances Oco

THE NEWLYWEDS' moms Alejandra Chan and Lorna Torrechante

VIRGILIO Almario

Does Malacañang consider arts and culture a cottage industry?

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

THERE are mixed signals coming from Malacañang on the leadership question at the National Commission on Culture and the Arts. On the one hand, there are signs that **President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** has given up on former senator **Leticia Ramos-Shahani** ever assuming the chairmanship of the super culture body through procedural means. On the other hand, it also appears that Malacañang is setting up somebody to replace not chair **Jaime Laya** but executive director **Virgilio Almario**.

Almario has reportedly been replaced by **Ma. Fina Yonson**, who handles the small business bureau of the Department of Trade and Industry. It's not known if Yonson is an Arroyo protégé, considering the President was once trade undersecretary, but members of the arts and culture community are bristling that somebody from the commerce side of government is taking over Almario, one of the country's top poets in Filipino and a top-rate literary scholar. "*Ano'ng akala ng* Malacañang *sa* arts and culture—cottage industry?" said an irate artist.

Perhaps worse, Malacañang is opening up the NCCA endowment fund to politicians. This seemed the case when **Vicky Garchitorena**, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, wrote the NCCA to grant the request of a Bulacan congressman for the release of P2 million to renovate the Barasoain Church of Malolos. The request obviously did not go through the procedures set up by the NCCA for screening requests and making sure the endowment fund goes to sound and viable projects. The request, in fact, smacks of politicking and wasteful use of government money at a time of utmost austerity. For wasn't the Barasoain Church renovated in 1998 for the presidential inaugural of **Joseph Estrada**? So what's the basis of the renovation now?

Shahani out?

IS Shahani still Malacañang's pick to replace Laya? Some insiders said the President couldn't support Shahani fully if it meant chaffing the arts and culture community, which, it appears, is readier to rally behind Laya. A source said the President wanted to consolidate her support, not squander it by pressing for unpopular people and issues.

But we can't be too sure. It is said Malacañang asked the head of an important subcommission not to attend a meeting to prevent the NCCA board from voting on the chairmanship, which could have easily gone Laya's way.

Things will have to come to a head, sooner or later. What many artists and cultural workers are merely asking is that the leadership of the NCCA be decided on the basis of administrative competence, vision and track record. With such criteria,

DOES/ p.E2

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Guess who came to dinner

(From page E8)

tor. By the time dinner was served, Virgie was definitely older and wiser.

Fortunately, the Friends picked a venue that was a no-fail visual treat: the home of Dr. Eleuterio "Teyet" Pascual. Home? A cheerfully demented museum is more like it. Walking around Teyet's unit at Pacific Plaza is both exhilarating and exasperating because there's no way you can look at every single piece in his collection. This man has solidified eclecticism into a habit. Besides paintings (some of which hang from the ceiling so you have to look up), there are sculptures, religious icons, antique jewelry, vases, sconces, lamps and other remembrances of times past. There isn't an inch of space on the wall or the ceiling that is blank.

"Compared to this, my home decor is minimalist," said the honoree, who came in her favorite Issey Miyake. A guitar player was summoned in haste. Dinner consisted of home-cooking and well-loved family recipes, except for dessert, which came in two boxes from Forbes Park. Other dear hearts came. More wine bottles were uncorked.

And before anybody noticed, night had turned into morn.

In case you didn't know, the honoree is the goddess of Gift Gate. The names Hello Kitty, Benetton and Swatch have become such brands of radiant familiarity that it's easy to forget how much intelligence, talent and grace it has taken on Virgie's part to transform them into crowd-pleasers. Hopefully, the evening gave her respite from the rigors of retail.

THE HONOREE and the collector

Does Malacañang consider . . .

(From page E1)

it will be easier to decide who deserves to hold the reins of the NCCA and steer it to greater success.

Cell phone theft capital of the world

IT seems like cell phone snatchers are getting more and more brazen.

Last Wednesday, at around 5 p.m., **Pam Pastor** of 2bU! and her mom **Susan** were in their car at the corner of Araneta and Quezon Avenues, waiting for the traffic light to turn green.

Susan was in the driver's seat, with the window halfway rolled down since she had just finished smoking. Her Nokia 3210 was on her lap. Suddenly, she shrieked. Pam saw two hands reaching in through the car window trying to grab the phone. There was no struggle. In a nanosecond, the man in white shirt and black shorts was running toward the squatters' area in Araneta, the 3210 with him. Seething with anger, although Susan was still in shock, they approached a policeman and a policewoman just a few feet away from the scene. The officers of the law just stared blankly at them.

Deciding to take matters into their own hands, Pam and her mom went over to the squatters' area, although they knew that their search would be in vain. Before they walked away, the policewoman said, as if to convince them of her usefulness, *"Sige po,* ma'am, *babantayan namin 'yung sasakyan ninyo."* But just a couple of minutes later, when the two went back to the car, the policewoman was nowhere to be found.

Accepting the loss, they called Globe to report what happened and to have the line cut. While this was going on, Pam, because of her fury, sent a flurry of text messages to her mom's phone, cursing the thief. "It's not anymore about the phone but about the fact that we were in the car and he invaded our territory," she said. But the thief had the temerity to text back: "U**l! G**o!"

It turns out this area in Araneta is teeming with cell phone thieves—and incompetent cops who might be protecting them. Texters, watch out. The next victim might be you.

Casino mouth

CASINO habitués at the Heritage Hotel are irritated at a slot machine token attendant for allegedly never failing to show ugly and indecent behavior around patrons. According to regular casino patrons, the attendant has this habit of babbling with the other casino personnel about her married live-in partner, a certain slot machine supervisor named **Tom**, in screaming distance of players. "Now we," said the three players, "are not really *'chismosos'* and *'chismosas'* but we couldn't help but hear her shouting about her illicit relationship. We think she's proud to announce to the whole world that her boyfriend is a married supervisor." They complain that she makes a lot of indecent talk, making it hard for players to concentrate. They ask management to get rid of her or else lose more casino patrons.

Discrimination zone

DISCRIMINATION is alive and well at Padi's Point in Cubao. An INQUIRER officer went to the watering hole to relax with a friend. They came in shorts. But the porter barred them from entering, invoking the dress code, no sign of which was prominently exhibited at the door.

The two took a table outside. They were already determined to enjoy the night despite the slighting treatment from the doorman when they saw a gaggle of Japanese tourists emerging from the bar, many of them in shorts. The pals could only shake their heads in disbelief. Either Padi's Point is owned by a Japanese collaborator or a Yakuza stooge, they thought.

Pumped-up pump prices

THE PRICE of unleaded gasoline is down to P18.20—thanks to President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address. However, the Caltex station at the corner of Edsa and Harvard Street, near Guadalupe, is selling unleaded gasoline or Vortex Silver for P18.60. That is 40 centavos higher than the normal price.

The receipt shows **Susan M. Entrata** operates the Harvard Service Center.

When the motorist complained about the price discrepancy, the gas station attendants simply reasoned out, *"Mas mataas ho kami talaga dahil binabawi ng may-ari sa benta ang renta dito dahil mahal."*

Now we don't think that it's fair for station owners to exact the high rent of their branch on motorists.

The victimized motorist later checked out other stations and found out unleaded gasoline really sells for only P18.20. Even Petron's unleaded is priced similarly.

The government should check the Makati station's overpricing.

FREE SPEECH

ABOUT YOUR Weekend Wakeuppers piece last Aug. 5 about **Richard Gomez** and his party-list group Movement Against Drugs (MAD), I must say that I didn't vote for MAD last May 14. Nor am I a fan of Richard Gomez. But I believe in a person's inherent right to stand up and be heard if he or she has been wronged. So I believe that it is unfair of you to denounce Gomez for staging rallies at the Supreme Court and the Comelec. All this could have been avoided if the Comelec had clearly outlined the rules and regulations needed for a group to qualify as a party-list nominee. MAD and the other party-list groups went through the normal procedures to have their parties registered for the elections. The Comelec should have properly screened the applicants and weeded out the questionable groups from those truly representing the marginalized sectors of the population. These groups properly registered and campaigned fairly. Now the Comelec is turning its back on them.

The Comelec should acknowledge that it had committed a mistake. The Supreme Court should acknowledge the Comelec's failure and not order the eight-point party-list guideline it issued last June 26 implemented retroactively. The high tribunal should remember that the fiasco was not the party-list groups' fault but the Comelec's. The government should include this controversy to the many errors the Comelec had committed during the last election and institute the necessary reforms to prevent them from happening again.

PATRICK EVERETT TADEO

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

SOUNDS LIKE FUN

ACROSS

1 Skater Lipinski
5 Not quite closed
9 Tiger with a club
14 New Deal agcy.
17 Cry of regret
18 Singer Lesley
19 Pitch tents
21 With 99 Down, famous racehorse
22 Crazy glue?
24 Brownie topper
25 Seine feeder
26 Coronet
27 Tiller
29 High old time
30 Dealt with a dragon
31 Relief
33 Bit
36 Composer Zoltan
38 Cluck and peep?
44 Disreputable
45 Coach Parseghian
46 Tuber
47 Old clothes
50 "The Mikado" setting
53 Got cracking
56 Union general
58 Architectural features
61 Be obligated
62 Ornamental plant
64 Chan's portrayer
65 Energy meas.
66 Lowland areas
68 Seize
70 Director Satyajit
71 "What — for Love" ('75 song)
72 Arduous
73 Bark?
75 In the cards
77 Push-button predecessor
78 Gibbon or gorilla
80 Model Carre
81 Charm
82 Circle segments
83 "Presumed Innocent" author
85 Board guy?
87 Albanian currency
88 Flower part
89 Flower parts
90 20th-century poet
94 Range rope
96 Uris or Trotsky
98 Stocking stuffer?
100 Before, to the Bard
101 Socialite Perle
104 Pedant?
108 Sheen
109 Drac's wrap
110 Raven maven?
111 Kudrow of "Friends"
112 El —, TX
114 Minus
118 Stallone role
122 Article
123 European peninsula
126 Conquer Everest?
128 Andrew of "Melrose Place"
129 Most terrible
130 "The People's Choice" basset
131 Part of EMT
132 Hen's honey
133 Diminish
134 Chopped
135 "David Copperfield" character

DOWN

1 Wilson's predecessor
2 Jai —
3 Tabula —
4 Stellar
5 Khan opener?
6 Actor Mostel
7 Commedia dell'—
8 Whirl
9 Network
10 Indefinite pronoun
11 Florida city
12 Comic Bill
13 Smiles smugly
14 Snow?
15 TV's "Ben —"
16 Sailors
20 Tea type
21 Yankee Jorge
23 Bucket
28 "Cara —" ('65 song)
32 Apply gently
34 Grimm creature
35 Leoni of "Deep Impact"
37 — vu
38 Super, for short
39 Nev. neighbor
40 Greyhound's greeting
41 Prepares for drilling
42 Merriment
43 African river
48 Guy's counterpart
49 Jolt
51 "Stay —" ('64 hit)
52 Inept at parties
54 Is useful
55 Actress Carter
57 Last name in law
59 Genetic info
60 Tennyson's tales
63 Tell tales
64 Orchestra member
65 Certain Kenyan
66 Showy shrub
67 Hit-man Hall of Fame?
69 Feign
72 Kennedy Cabinet member
73 Wild
74 Feature
76 Cinematic Chase
79 Set
81 Indian state
84 Castilian cry
86 Book after Joel
88 Situate a sentry
89 Ginger cookie
91 "Agnus —"
92 West ender?
93 Born
95 Tahini base
97 Two — kind
99 See 21 Across
102 Not so hot
103 Sheik spot
105 "Fantasia" frame
106 Puppeteer Baird
107 Piled up
108 Certain print
109 Jazzman Chick
111 "Schindler's —" ('93 film)
113 Belgrade denizen
115 Engrave
116 Mall event
117 Swerve
119 Interoffice communique
120 Boxer Max
121 Creole veggie
124 Relative of -ator
125 Had some hake
127 Myriads of moons

ANSWER ON PAGE E7

A swinging success

THE 6TH Annual Mega Ladies' Golf Cup Tournament, which was held at the Tagaytay Midlands, attracted noted ladies from Manila's golf-going set, particularly from the golfing associations like the Valley Golf Club, Alabang Country Club, Manila Southwoods, Wack Wack Country Club, Sta. Elena, Forest Hills, Baguio Country Club, Aguinaldo Golf Club, Tagaytay Highlands and Villamor Golf Club.

There were free gifts for spectators and players alike from Liz Claiborne packaged in elegant bags; umbrellas and caps courtesy of Earth + Style Corporation; samples of Davidoff Goodlife; and free coffee from Au Bon Pain.

A fashion show by Liz Claiborne gave an opportunity for the tourney's contestants to let their hair down and have fun. Lancôme provided free skin analysis for the guests.

Lily Chan, WGAP member, was the overall champion of this year's competition, closely followed by the Class A champion Therese Dabao, Sonia Bruce of the Class B category and Tessie Flores de Los Santos of Class C. Emi Jorge bagged the award for the longest drive and Marilen Villanueva was declared as Face of the Day.

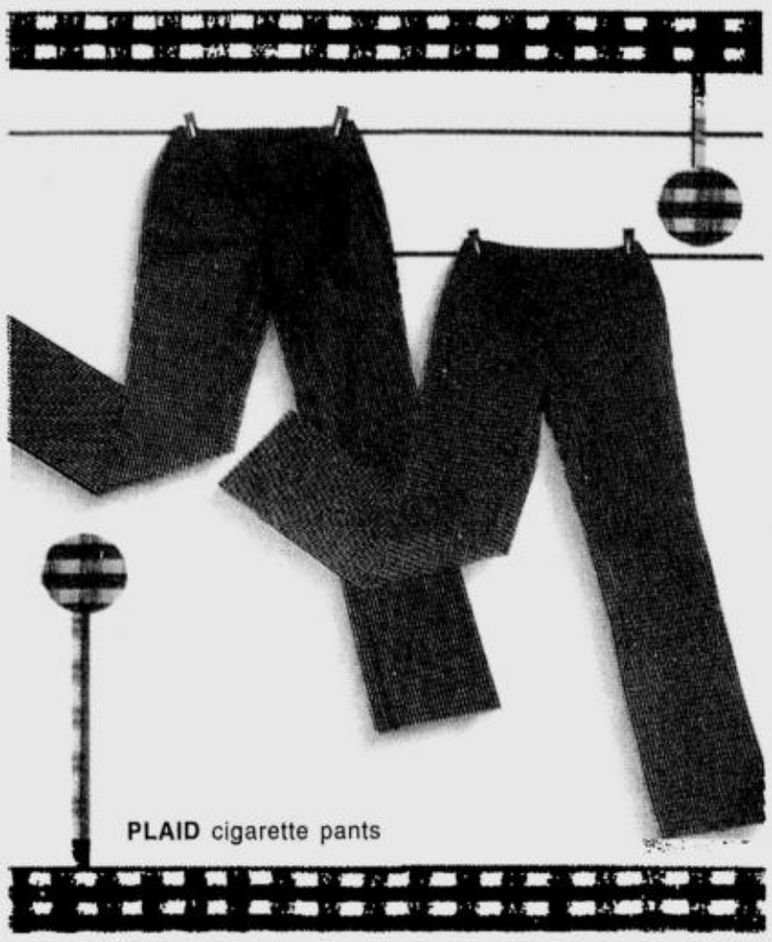
DENNIS Huang, Mega editor Sari Yap and Earth & Style's Joy Madlansacay (right) award Lily Chan (third from left), Mega ladies' cup champion

Prizes included a stunning Ford Lynx for the hole-in-one, P8,000 for the overall champion and P5,000 for second place and trophies courtesy of D & J Art Glass.

FUN FOR YOUNG FLYERS

Cathay Pacific Airways' new Winnie the Pooh Kids Kits are packed with enough goodies to entertain kids on even the longest journey. In the see-through kit are Pooh puzzles, coloring book, arm band, stickers and toys. Out of the eight different fun packs, four are for children 3-6 years and four for those between 7-12. Different packs are used for regional flights and long-haul flights.

Responding to what women want



PLAID cigarette pants

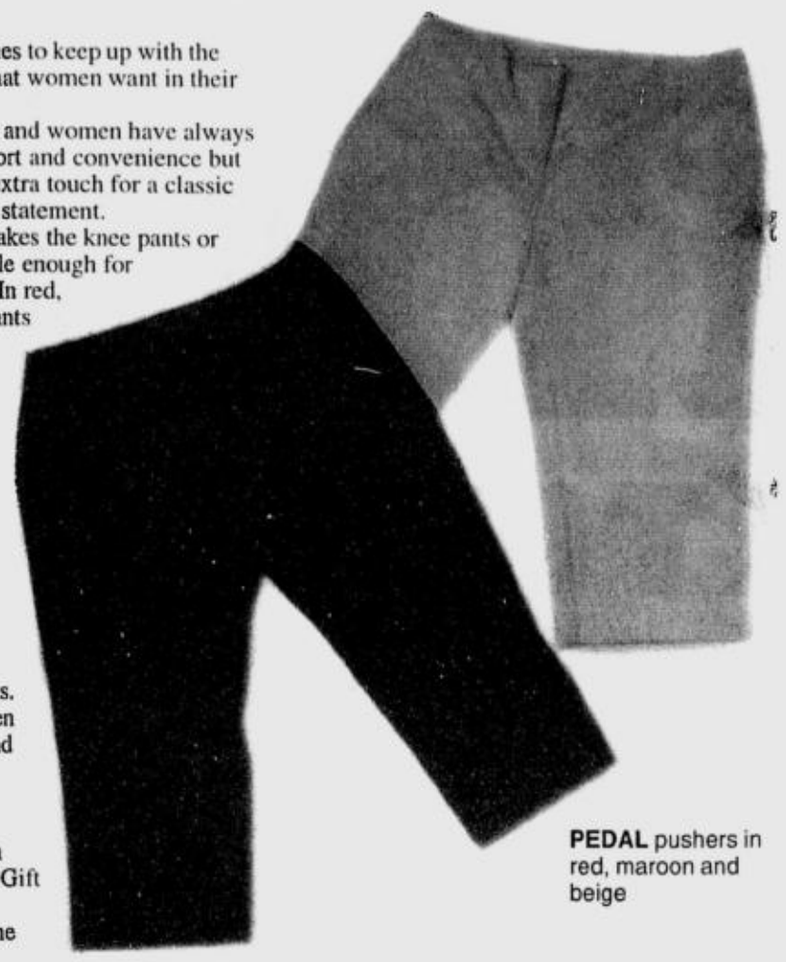
BENETTON continues to keep up with the times and address what women want in their pants.

In Asia, both men and women have always worn pants for comfort and convenience but Benetton gives that extra touch for a classic and timeless fashion statement.

Thus, Benetton makes the knee pants or pedal pushers versatile enough for any casual occasion. In red, maroon and beige, pants are made of 100 percent Italian polyester.

Benetton's latest line of slacks consists of cigarette pants in red and blue plaid. For the woman who likes a cool cotton top and a great pair of jeans, Benetton offers a line of bell bottoms and basic five-pocket jeans. Utility pants for women come in blue, black and beige.

Customers who accumulate P2,500 worth of receipts can avail of the first-ever Gift Gate Privilege Card. Benetton is part of the Gift Gate Group.



PEDAL pushers in red, maroon and beige

BENETTON'S line of bell bottoms

Coffee keeps KC going

AS one of the country's busiest performing artists, KC Montero does not have a daily routine. He can be working into the wee hours of the morning and have an appointment a few hours later that same day. For Montero, a commercial model, variety show host and an actor, no two days are quite alike.

He currently appears on MTV Embassy, MTV Classic, Be Seen on MTV and other programs. In 1999, he bested other contestants in the MTV search for VJs.

Life has changed considerably for Montero since he relocated to the Philippines with brother Troy a few years ago.

With tight schedule, Montero hardly has time for a leisurely breakfast. But he tries not to miss the most important meal of the day.

He always tries to have a nourishing if quick breakfast that doesn't take too long to fix. Of course, breakfast always means a hot cup of coffee.

The celebrity is a self-confessed coffee drinker. "I drink coffee to keep me alert," he says. "Everyone in our office drinks coffee, but they drink it like it's water. Me, I take it to sustain my energy."

Whenever he feels that his energy level is dropping, Montero takes a break with a cup of coffee.

An ideal day at work for him would be one that's relaxed and easy. Every now and then he wishes he could have a day without any frantic hurrying.

KC Montero

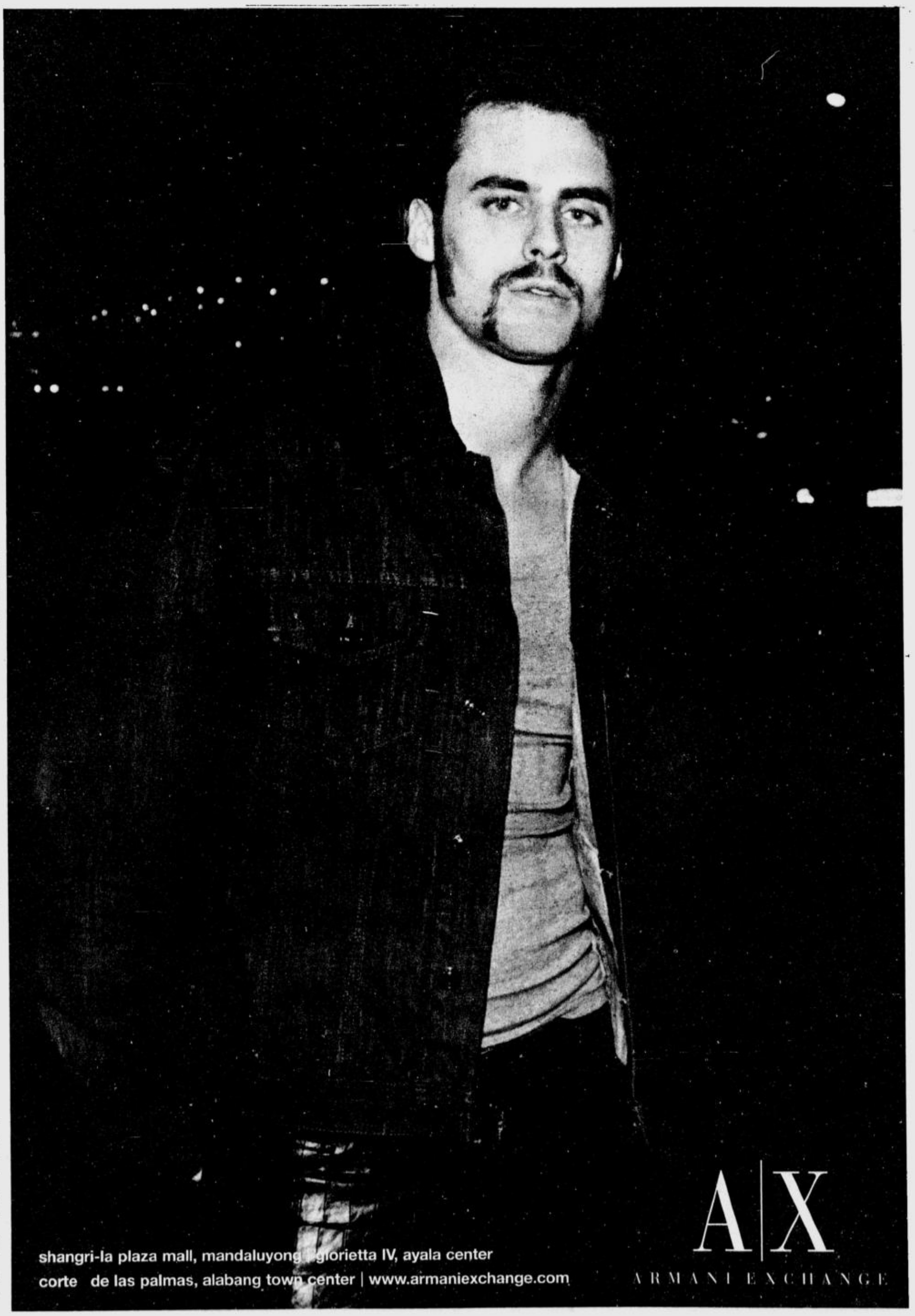
Miriam High School exams rescheduled

ON AUG. 20, all Miriam College High School students will take the exams scheduled for Aug. 17. They are all expected to be in school from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. because students will have regular classes or the scheduled activities after their exams.

The scheduled activities for Aug. 20 are the following: concert of Rene Dalandan, CEM testing and a seminar on social graces.

The induction of Family Council officers scheduled on Aug. 17 has been postponed until further notice.

For particulars, students and parents may call the High School administration at 927-8581, 435-9240 to 46, local 261 or 262.



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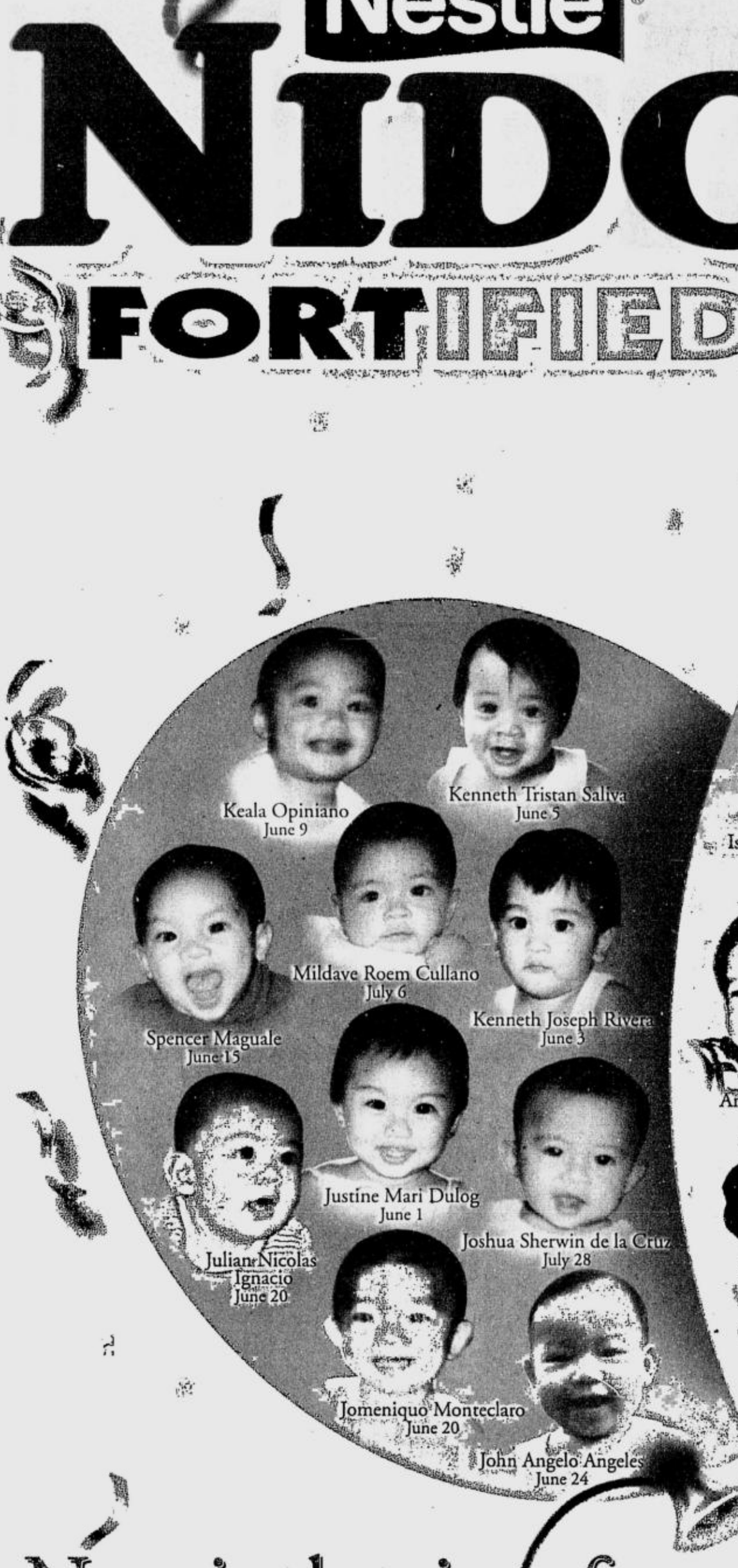


Now is the time for **Nido Fortified**

They have reached the first year milestone of their lives. Congratulations, Mom and Dad! All the love and sacrifice have been worth it. Now get them ready for the challenges they will face with Nido Fortified.

It's the first and only growing up milk with Prebio®, a breakthrough ingredient developed exclusively for Nestle. Prebio® helps promote a stronger digestive system against diarrhea, constipation and gastrointestinal problems. Nido Fortified also has **Iron and Essential Fatty Acids (EFA)** for optimum brain development.

the celebrants of June & July

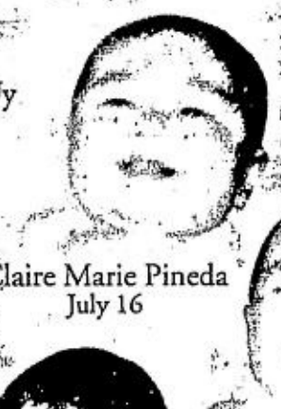
Carlo Miguel Velasco
July 21

Patrick Joshua Lingon
July 29

Micah Banatao
June 1

Tiffany Mae Uy

Cyria Kerim
June 19


Claire Marie Pineda
July 16

Rafael Nuñez
July 23

Ronan Galano
July 7

Paolo Barrameda
July 28

Robert San Pedro
July 4

Rosary Batac
June 10

Dianne Villanueva
June 10

Dionne Villanueva
June 10

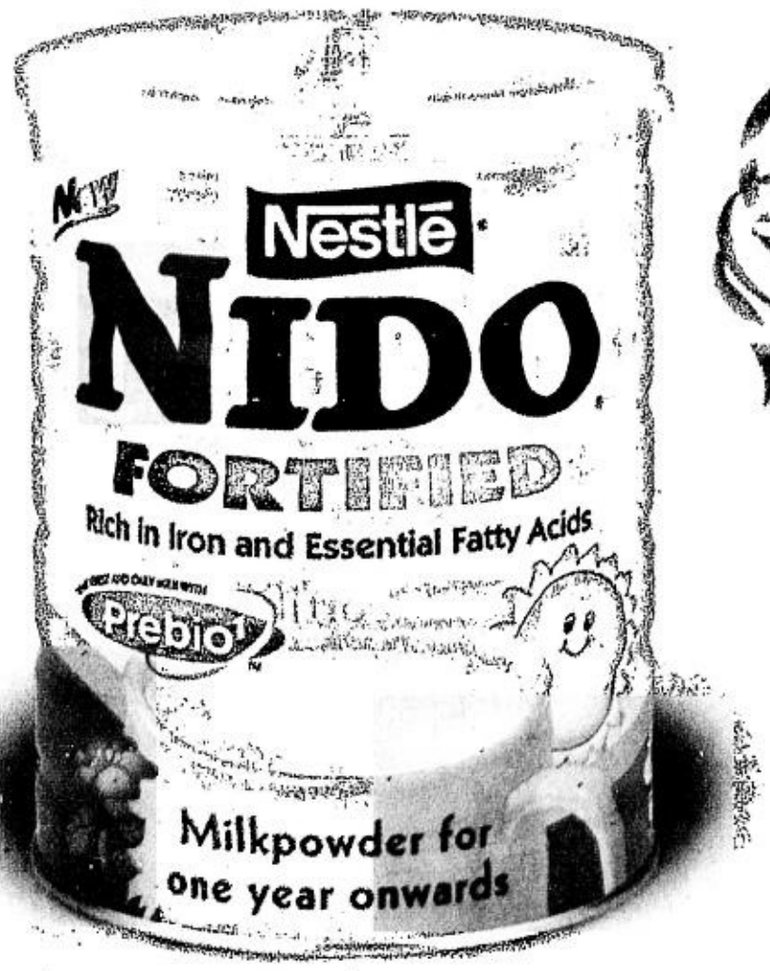
Sean Paolo Abdon
July 6

Ian Mayo
June 6

Ian Ignacio
July 9

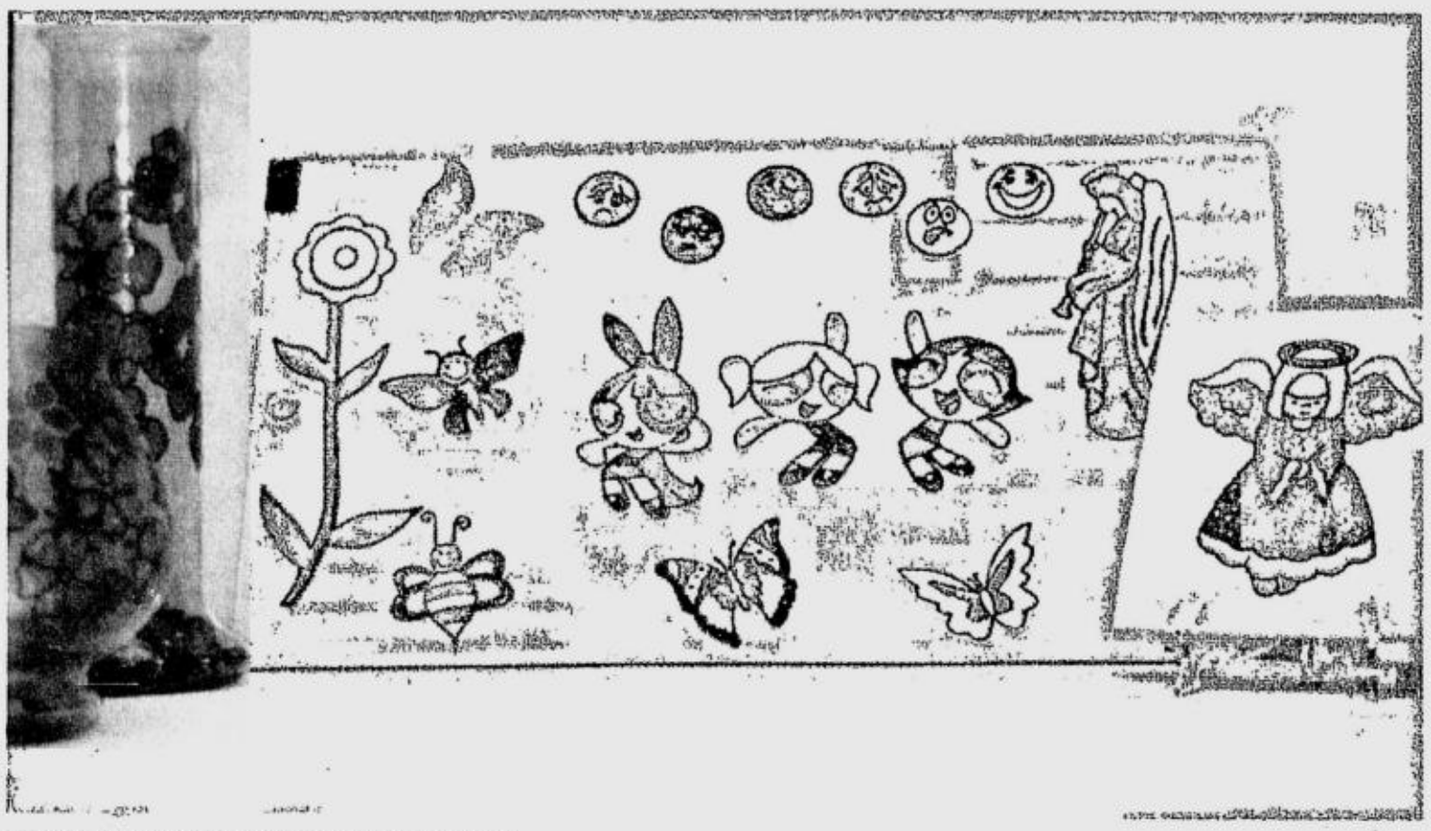
Tell everyone your baby just turned 1!

If your baby is celebrating his/her birthday in August or September, send his/her picture along with the name, birthday, mother's name, address, phone number, and a NIDO Fortified 200g or 450g box top to Publicis-AMA, Inc., 9/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Q.C. on or before September 19, 2001.



Now that your child will start to wander off in search of new things to discover, what a joy it would be to watch him and know that Nido Fortified is there to help.

Age 1. The Age for Nido Fortified.



FUN and pretty decorative stained glass stickers

Just stick it on

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

PARENTS, how would you like to bond with your kids through this exciting craft called stained glass sticker art?

As for kids, they would surely take delight in painting and making stickers of their favorite cartoon characters like Power Puff Girls, Mickey Mouse and Tweety Bird.

"This transferable stained glass sticker art uses transparent paints that can be used to create sun-catchers or decorative dimensional stickers that will adhere to any smooth surfaces," says Agnes Valencia, store manager of Craft World. "It gives the look of a real stained glass. The paints are water-based and nontoxic, so parents don't need to worry."

CRAFT

The painted design looks best when placed on glass doors, glass windows or mirrors. The effect can be quite thrilling. "Simply trace the designs with the leading paint on a plastic blank, fill in the open space with the easy-flowing paint colors, let dry, peel and stick it on your window. It's so easy for anyone, no matter what age," says Agnes.

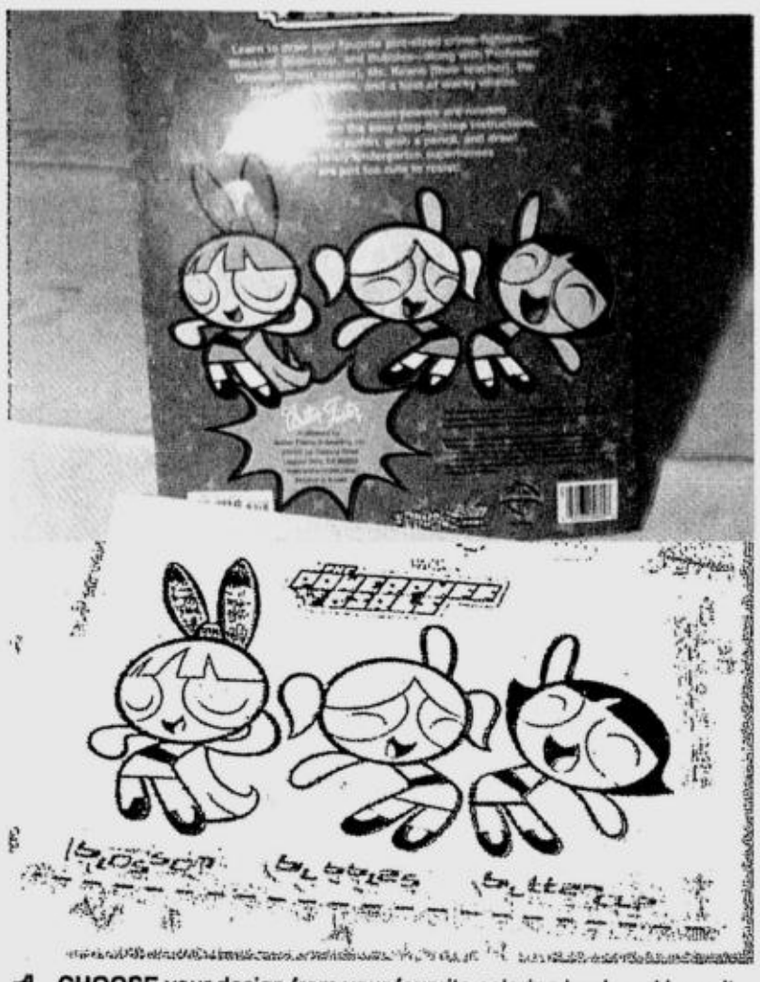
Because the designs can be removed and re-attached over and over again, they are excellent for both everyday and seasonal decorations, such as hearts for Valentine's Day, and angels and lanterns for Christmas.

You can get designs from coloring books, magazines, wallpapers or gift wrappers. If you find a design you like, have it photocopied (reduced or enlarged) and attach it to the cardboard.

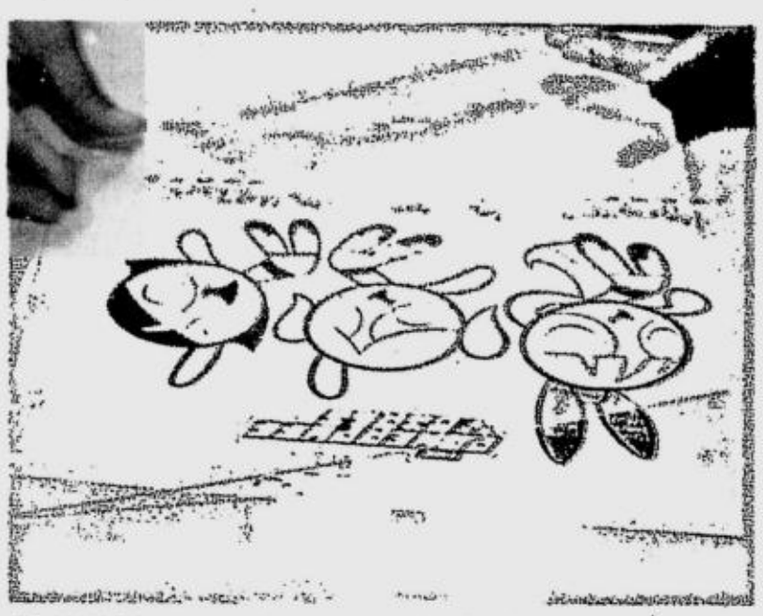
The steps in making your own glass stickers are easy. Of course, the essential tool is the paint called Liquid Rainbow, which is available at Craft World (tel. 634-5882) at 114 Park Avenue, Robinsons Galleria. Also needed are styrene painting blank and the pattern that you wish to copy.

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Make your own transferable stained glass sticker

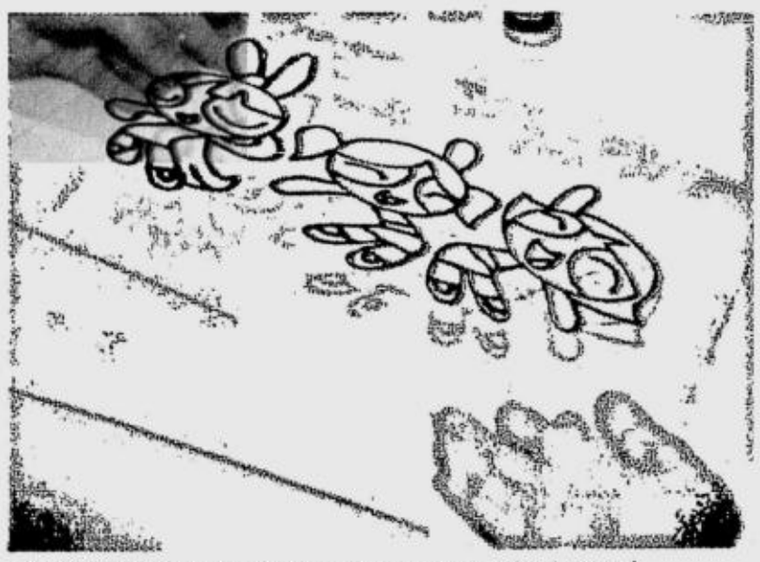


1 CHOOSE your design from your favorite coloring book and have it photocopied.



2 PLACE pattern under styrene painting blank.

3 TRACE pattern using leading paint. Hold the bottle at a slight upright angle, as you would a pencil. Do not drag the tip on the surface. Parents might want to draw the outline for small children. Let dry for one to two hours.



4 TRANSFER outlined pattern to a white, clear background.

5 FILL in the outlined areas with Liquid Rainbow paint directly from the bottle, taking care that no space inside the outlined area is left without paint. Paint will appear cloudy until dried.

6 TO REMOVE air bubbles from the paint, gently tap the bottom of the paint surface while the paint is still wet. Let dry between three to 24 hours depending on paint thickness.

7 GENTLY peel off the sticker.

8 STICK and press sticker on desired surface.

Twin events well attended despite rains

ASIA-PACIFIC Franchise Confederation chair Samie Lim, LG Collins president Henry Jang and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

RAINS could not keep guests away from the opening of Automatic Centre and Blims Fine Furniture Corporate Showroom and Customer Training Center on Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street.

The latest appliance and furniture hub in the metropolis, it was another feather in the cap of the Lim family, which started with just two showcases in a department store on Avenida Rizal.

The short opening ceremonies were highlighted by a fashion show of wedding gowns by Bobby Novenario, Pepsi Herrera and Edwin Tan. Water Color provide the makeup for the 15 models who participated. Food was provided by Kamayan.

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Automatic Centre were participated in by grand patriarch Don Benito Lim, executive vice president Irene Lim-Chua, and guests of honor Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Marivic Anonuevo of Ayala Land, Frederick Dy, chair of Security Bank Corp, and Jesus Francisco, president/COO of Meralco.

Carrie Lim, executive vice president of Blims, ably assisted the guests at the Blims side composed of Cede Campos, chair of Makati Commercial Establishments Association; National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Dante Canlas, Vilma Valera, chair of Two Hearts Foundation, and Johnny Hubilla, chair of the Board of Interior Design.

Guests included Miguel Varela, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and wife Cecile; Philexport president Serge Ortiz-Luis and wife Marge, Raul Boncan, Jose Yulo, Cesar Purisima and Maribel Carandang of PCCI; and Ernesto Tanmantiong, Manuel and Nelia Siggaoat, George Yang, Leo Dominguez, Mildred Ramos, from the Philippine Franchise Association.

Trade Undersecretary Nellie Villafuerte, former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo and wife Marlene, former Mayor Mel Mathay, Ramon Abad, Mr. and Ms Leroy Tan, Begonia Ortigas, Mr. and Ms Emilio Tanedo, Marga Ortigas, Orchard Yu of Security Land, Joanna Romero, Harry Limtong, Bea Tan and Jenny Lacerna of Citibank, Diners Club president Jose Nunez, Jr., and Equitable Card president Antonio Go were also there.

JOSE Yulo (left), PCCI vice president, with Don Benito Lim

NATIONAL Artist Andrea Veneracion receives a huge birthday card.

THE PHILIPPINE Madrigal Singers batch 2001

PEACHY Veneracion with cousin Baby Yambao

THREE of a kind: Gelo, Annie and Edward

Music is Andrea Veneracion's life

ON THE OCCASION of her 73rd birthday, National Artist for Music **Andrea O. Veneracion** was recently given a tribute in a Mass, dinner, gala concert and the book launch of "A Life Shaped by Music," which was written by **Marjorie Evasco** and published by Bookmark.

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

The voices of the Madrigal Singers filled the church of St. Patrick's in La Vista. The priest remarked that it was the most beautiful Mass he had ever officiated. At Via Mare Tektite, 100 voices sang "Pianissimo" during the surprise birthday dinner. Cocktails, a gala concert and a book launch featuring Madame Veneracion and the Philippine Madrigal Singers were held at the Cultural Center of Philippines.

Last month, she was awarded by her alma mater, Indiana University and conferred a distinction by American basketball legend **Isaiah Tomas** for sports.

It was a fitting tribute to a National Artist whose life has indeed been molded by music.

DR. Felipe Veneracion with sons Raffy and Angel

CHIQUI Adda with daughter Isabel

NINI Jorge

ROMY Jorge

DIDAY and Ronald Alcudia

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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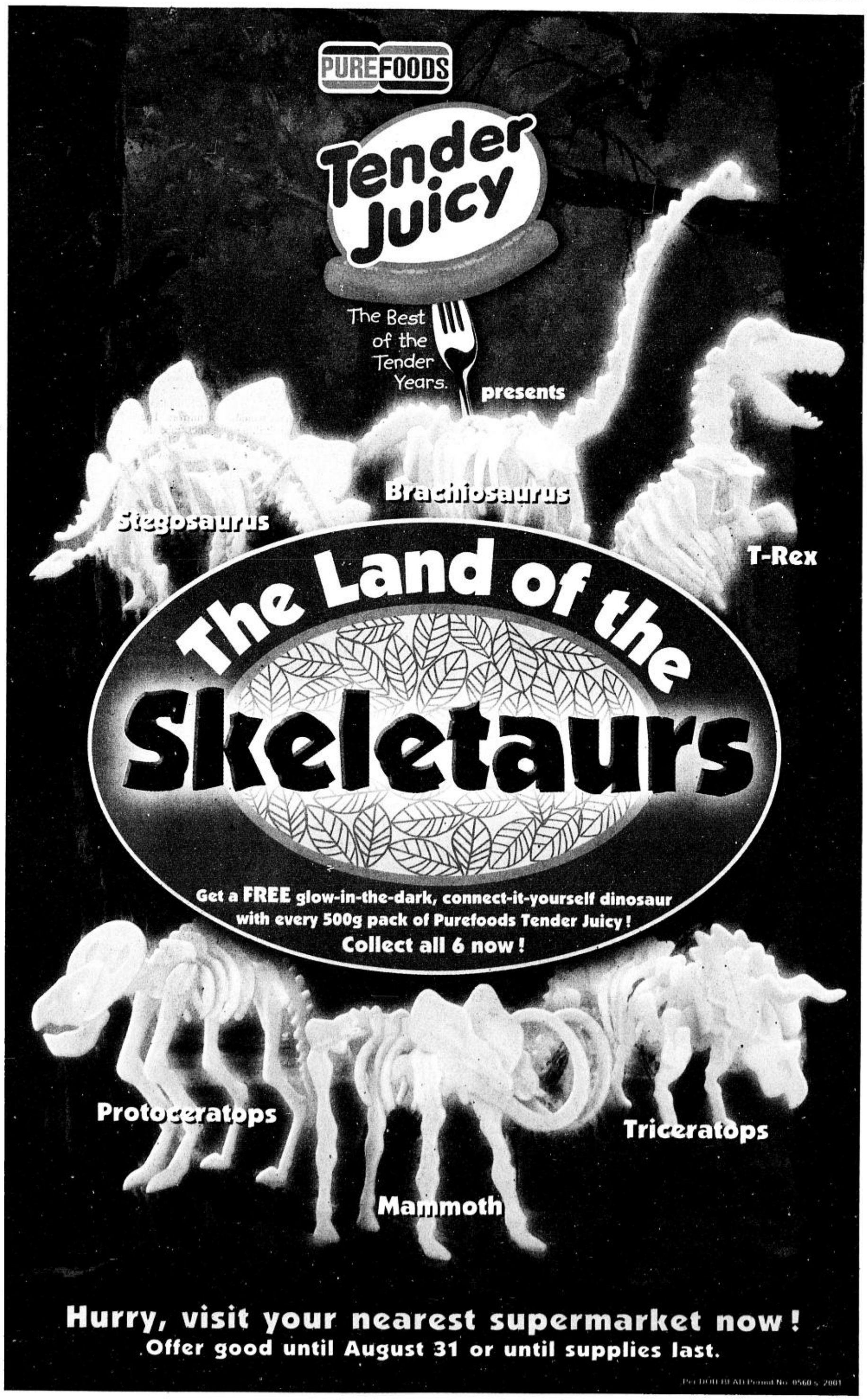

SISTERS Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and Tessa Prieto-Valdes with honoree Virgie Ramos

Guess who came to dinner

IT was an intimate dinner, but big-hearted in many ways. Friends of Virgie Ramos who didn't get to see her on her birthday because of deadlines and other joyless obligations made plans to take her somewhere restful for lunch and gossipy conversation as soon as she got back from her travels abroad.

Well, Virgie returned and a week passed and the Friends still couldn't decide on the place. Angono? Tagaytay? Pagsanjan? Forget lunch, switch to dinner. But there were one too many late-breaking news—heads were rolling in Abuland, the perfect volcano was getting restless, a former comrade-in-crime was snitching on a newly elected sena-

GUESS/ p.E2

SALON SEATING. Inno Sotto, the honoree, Thelma San Juan, and other guests

NEW TANG® 1-Kilo Saver's Pack

'Di lang bigatin sa lasa, magaan pa sa bulsa.

Dalawang flavors at isang kilong saya para sa buong pamilya.
Punong-puno ng sarap sa mas abot kayang halaga. Kaya magtimpla na at simulan ang ligaya.

FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR E-MAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Don't cry for Judy Ann Santos

THERE is nothing pretentious about the princess of prime-time soap

PLAYTIME

By the staff

opera. With Judy Ann Santos, whose television show, "Sa Puso Ko

DON'T/ p.F2

(ATENEO COLLEGE ENTRANCE TEST)
ACET REFRESHER COURSE
Free for all those who took the AHEAD ACET Review last summer.
Non-AHEAD students may also attend the course for P980.
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Call 426-0034 to 36 now!
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On its 3rd year anniversary, Moissanite gives you

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- Lifetime warranty

Because it's Moissanite's third year anniversary, we are offering you up to 30% discount on Moissanite jewelry. What's more, for every single or accumulated purchase of P50,000, you will automatically get an alphabet pendant for FREE! Every purchase is backed up by our lifetime warranty. So visit a Moissanite branch now until August 31, 2001 and get these Third Anniversary brilliant benefits now.

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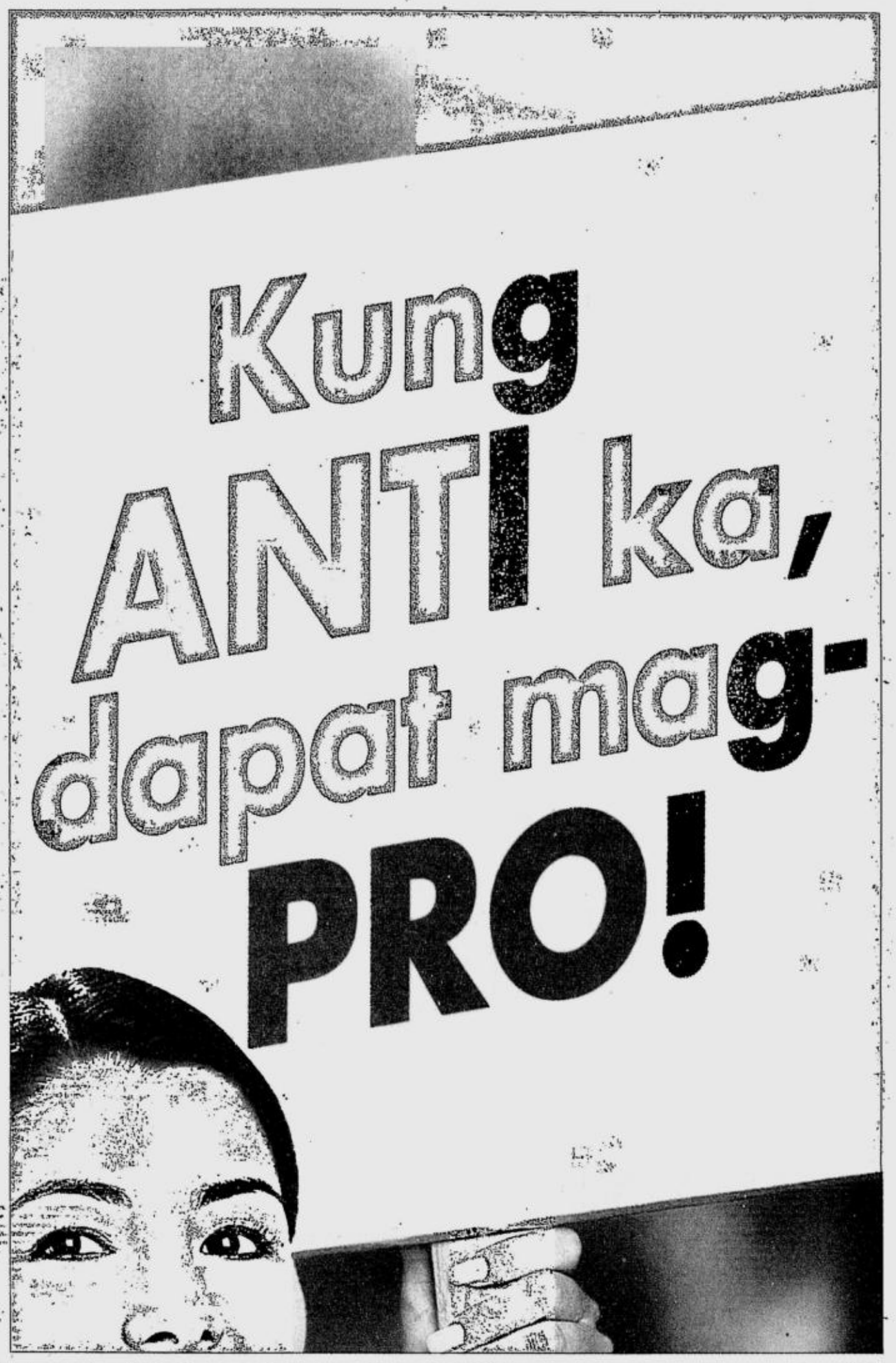
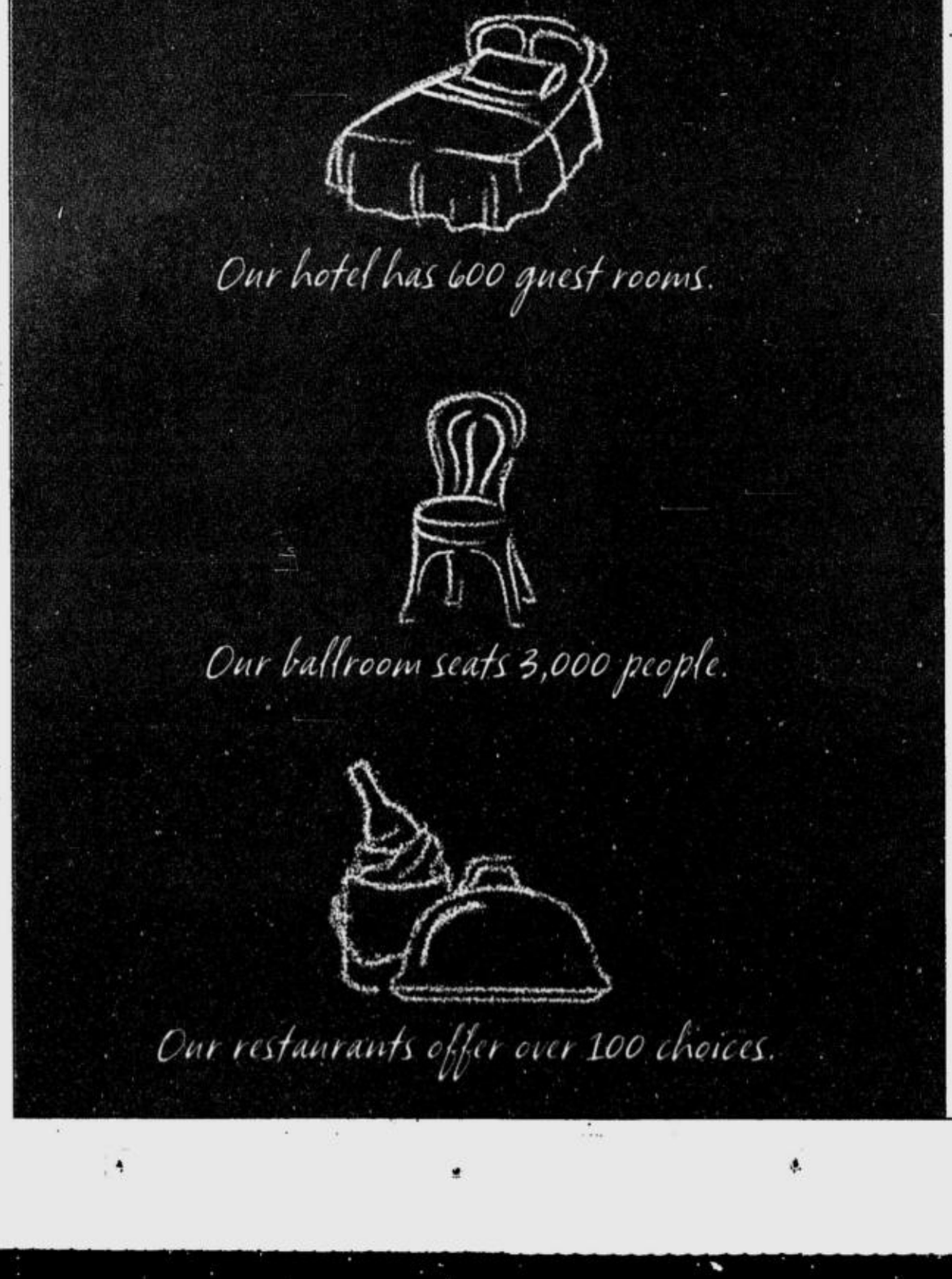
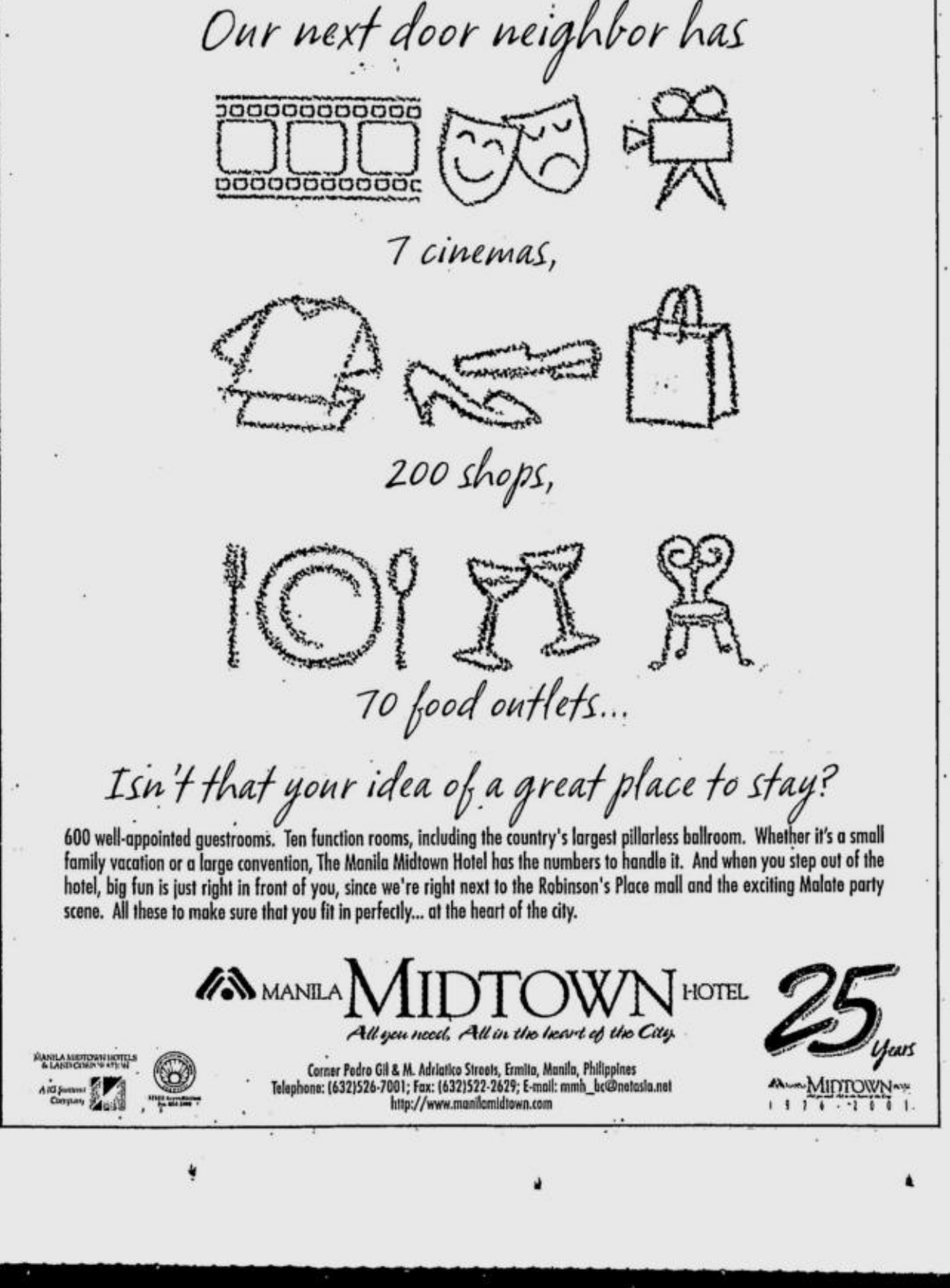
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1223 Series of 2001.







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Don't cry for Judy Ann Santos

(From page F1)

Iingatan Ka," currently reigns supreme in the ratings game with a 40-percent-plus audience share, what you see is what you get. For someone who has been steeped in show business since the tender age of 9, there is nothing show businessy about her.

What she has plenty of is a genuine, unaffected charm and disarming candor. Looking fit and radiant, there is an aura about her that makes heads turn. So much more attractive in person, she has a visibly shy and quiet demeanor that belies a strength that comes from within. Walking into Café Kilimanjaro, a watering hole for artist-types that she coowns with good friend Belay Santos, there is a momentary hush when she enters the room. "*Ang ganda pala niya*," people murmur. Truly, Judy Ann has a refreshing charm and prettiness that is all her own.

Looking a wee bit tired, having just arrived from Tokyo that evening, and busy with the promotions of her upcoming film, "Bakit Di Totohanin?," with heartthrob Piolo Pascual (who was also at Café Kilimanjaro that night for the "Bakit..." cast party), she graciously sat for two hours with the Lifestyle staff in a cozy corner of her café. In this interview, she shares her attempts at keeping slim, the love she has for her small, closely knit family with whom she lives with to this day, and anecdotes from a career that has produced queues at the box office spanning the length of Edsa.

What's the storyline of "Bakit Hindi Pa Totohanin"?

Ito 'yung istorya ng isang girl boxer *na nakikipaglaban para mabawi ko 'yung* gym *ng tatay ko. Si* Piolo, *siya 'yung aking* trainer. *Pero sa umpisa ng* movie, *siya 'yung bale pinaka-*champion, trainer *naman niya 'yung* daddy *ko...si* Johnny Delgado.

So the role is physically demanding? Did you have to undergo training?

Yeah... for two months. In-between takes, *nagte-*training *pa rin ako*, so during break I practice with my personal trainer. *Kasi hindi puwedeng bawiin ang mga* moves *sa* boxing *eh.*

Is that how you lost weight?

Yeah... and diet. *Kasi di ka puwede mag-*boxing *nang mabigat ka.*

What kind of diet?

I eat only rice in the morning, *kasi* heavy meal *dapat sa* morning. Lunch, *konti-konti na lang*, no rice at all. No beef, *puwede* chicken and fish. But more on vegetables and fruits *kapag medyo nagugutom ako* and lots of water, *kasi kapag nagba-*boxing *ako sobrang pawis*, stretching *palang pawis ka na...*

What about for dinner?

Sa gabi, parang automatic *na eh, mawawalan ka na talaga ng gana dahil sa pagod mo.*

But do you take something in-between meals?

Fruits. Like grape fruit, pineapple... *sobrang matamis ang mangga, mataas ang* sugar, *kaya di puwede.*

Is the diet part of the training?

Yeah, but even before this, *nagda-*diet *na ako, nag-*Power Up *na ko, nag-*wall-climbing *ako*, workout...

Which gym do you go to?

Power Up in Pasig.

Who is your trainer?

Si Kuya Jeff, kasi nung umpisa katuwaan lang, eh naging masarap siyang exercise, actually. *Kaya nagtuluy-tuloy na lang...*

How often do you workout?

As much as possible, three times a week. Almost every day *nagba-*boxing *ako, kasi sa* shooting *nga. Nasasamahan na lang ng puyat*, surprisingly, *hindi ako nagkakasakit.*

I think you lost weight even before you started the movie...

Naging maayos lang 'yung pagpapapayat. I weighed 135 pounds before; now I'm 118 pounds.

How tall are you?

Mga 5'4".

So you lost weight in a span of how many months?

Siguro mga three to four months.

Who prescribed your diet?

Actually, *wala, pinagsama-sama ko na lang 'yung mga naririnig ko. Sinama-sama ko na lang. Pero* at the same time, *may mga naitulong din 'yung mga* professionals, doctors. Before that *kasi, may kinunsulta akong* doctor, *nagtanong ako ng madaling paraan para magbawas ako ng timbang. Nagbigay siya ng mga ilang* medications then *tapos na, para lang ma-*maintain *'yung* food intake.

Did you ever try Bangkok pills?

Yeah, I did. *Di pa man siya nauuso sa* show biz *noon, patago pa nga 'yung binibenta sa mga artista. Hindi naman siya* illegal *pero kapag kasi nakikita ng mga tao ang epekto sa iyo iba na ang iniisip eh... Nung pumutok ang* Bangkok pills, *hindi na ako gumagamit noon pero gumamit ako.*

Have you tried other diet pills?

Oo, almost everything *yata eh...*

Which was the most effective?

Exercise—exercise and diet.

What was the effect of the Bangkok pill on you? Did you lose weight at all?

I did, *pero nawawalan ka ng* concentration, *may* memory lapses, *minsan napaka-*slow *mo, minsan naman napaka-*hyper *mo*. Dry mouth, most of the time. *Minsan may* palpitation, *siyempre nakaka-*tense *din...*

Did you try Xenical?

Yeah, I did. *Kasi si kuya bumili. Naintriga ako kasi kailangan mo pa siyang* order-*in* and one month *bago mo makuha 'yung gamot.* So I ordered and at the same time *nag-*order *din ako para sa* mommy *ko, kasi kailangan din niya mag-*lose *ng* weight *kasi* diabetic *siya. Pero parang ayaw ko ng naging epekto. Ang maganda lang nito nalalabas mong lahat ang mantika sa katawan mo. Pero minsan ang* feeling *mo, ang baho-baho mo...*

Are you sticking with your diet? *Nasa* system *mo na kaya iyon?*

Maybe...

Does it feel good to look the way you do now?

Oh yeah... (Laughter) *Pagkatapos ng lahat ng nasulat* and all... "*Mukhang* siopao." "*Ang taba-taba mo.*" "You don't look good on television." *Iba 'yung pakiramdam na sasabihin naman sa akin ngayon, "Uy, ang ganda na ng katawan mo,* okay *'yung itsura mo sa* TV," *mas nakakaenganyo lalong mag-*workout. *Ako kasi ganoon, kapag problemado ako, kapag* depressed *ako,* I do a lot of boxing, *o kaya ilang pader 'yung inaakyat ko para lang mailabas ko 'yung* emotions *ko. Di naman kasi ako pala-sigaw na tao eh. Sana lang ma-*inspire *din sila na mag-*diet.

At what age did you start dieting?

At 15, since "Mara Clara" days.

But do you really love to eat?

May mga oras lang na, I love to eat *pero hindi ako kumakain ng parang wala nang bukas. Parang mahilig lang akong mag-*try *nang mag-*try. *Minsan kaka-*try *mo marami ka na palang nakakain pero hindi ako 'yung talagang malakas kumain.*

Now, let's go to the subject of love...Who is it now?

Naku po. (Laughter)

What's the real score between you and Piolo?

At what age did you start dieting?

At 15, since 'Mara Clara' days. I weighed 135 pounds before, now I'm 118 pounds

(Laughter) Aside from the fact *na pareho kaming naka-pula ngayon eh, wala...*

Bakit inakbayan ka kaagad pagdating niya kanina...

Ganoon lang iyon. We're really good friends. We're close.

There's nothing romantic between the two of you?

Maybe there is, but we're not talking about it. *Hinahayaan lang namin, kung nandiyan, nandiyan, kung wala, wala. Alam mo 'yun kasi baka nape-*pressure *lang kami dahil sa mga taong naka-paligid sa amin at nagtatanong kung kami na...* so *hayaan na lang namin...*

How often do you hang out together outside of work?

Frankly speaking, we don't have time to go out. Almost every day *nagkikita kami. Sa* shootings, tapings and out-of-town shows *magkasama kami,* so *wala kaming oras lumabas. 'Yung ilalabas namin, itutulog na lang namin.* Homebody *rin kasi siya.*

Is it true that your mom and Piolo's mom were best friends before?

Yeah... *nung high school sila. 'Yung* literal *na* best friends *na sila lang talaga. Wala silang ibang* circle of friends. *Kung ano 'yung kurso pinasok nung isa, iyon din ang kukunin nung isa kahit di gusto ng isa.*

Then they lost touch?

Oo. Then, *nagkita lang ulit sila* last year... *nagtanungan lang sila. Nagkita sila sa* Canada *pa, then 'yun nag-chikahan na sila.*

Ngayon* in touch *na naman ulit sila...

Through text. *Salamat sa* text. (Laughter)

So, *botong-boto ang* mommy *mo kay* Piolo? (Laughter) *Wala siyang problema sa* part *na iyon?*

Wala masyado. (Laughter) *Hindi na isyu 'yun.*

How does your Mom feel about Wowie [De Guzman]?

Hindi siya masyadong pabor. Before *naman kasi* okay *sila ni* Wowie. *Ang problema lang kasi, sa* show biz *masyadong maraming sumusulsol eh. Tapos nagkaroon ng* misunderstanding... *tapos lumaki 'yung isyu.*

But you're still in touch with Wowie?

Yeah, we still talk.

Do you have projects together?

Katatapos lang ng "Love Text" then after that *hindi na ulit kami nagkita.* But we still try to keep in touch.

Do you plan to go into directing or do other things in the movies besides acting?

Actually, *iniisip ko mag-*wardrobe. *Ayoko kasi ng masyadong* pressure *dahil hindi ko kakayanin ang* pressure... *Iniisip ko kung paano ko puwede pagandahin 'yung* personality *ng isang tao sa* screen. *Mas* excited *ako sa ganoon kesa sa* work *na mag-iisip ako ng eksena, mag-iisip ako ng* shots, *paano ko paaartehin 'yung artista, tapos* in the end *nasa iyo pa rin ang sisi kapag hindi kumita 'yung pelikula. Ayoko ng ganoong* effort. *Di ko kaya. Mag-aartista na lang ako.*

Have you thought of going back to school?

Oh yes, *nasa plano ko talaga 'yun. Iniisip ko talagang bumalik kasi nag-*graduate *naman ako ng* high school...

Which high school?

Mt. Carmel... *sinuguro ko talaga na tapos ako ng* high school *kasi gusto ko, pursigido na akong bumalik at hindi dahil sa sinasabihan ako ng tao na kailangan kong mag-aral.*

When you go back to school will you quit show

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biz so you can focus on your studies?

Siguro kapag feel *ko na talaga...pero ngayon kasi kalat 'yung utak ko. Gusto kong mag-*HRM, *gusto kong maging* interior designer... *marami akong gustong gawin...*

A lot of movie stars did that, Hilda Koronel went back to school...*pero marami rin ang hindi na bumalik ng* school but they did very well, like Vilma Santos...

Iba kasi talaga kapag may natapos ka. Ako kasi hindi ako makukuntento sa diploma *lang eh, papel lang 'yun. 'Yung pumapasok talaga sa utak mo, natuto ka. Isa pa, 'yung* generation *kasi ngayon, ewan ko ba pero* lost *ako kapag may mga* topic *tungkol sa* computers, *may mga usapan tungkol sa mga nangyayari sa bansa... may mga* words *na akong hindi maintindihan dahil sa sobrang lalim, hindi ko na naaabot 'yung ganon.* I feel left out *kasi* you don't know what they're talking about. *Oo ka na lang kahit hindi mo naiintindihan...*

May luho ka ba?

Cologne, shoes, diamonds *ngayon na lang. More sa mga maliliit,* classic jewelries, *walang kapareho, pwede pang-*formal... *ngayon na lang ako nag-*diamonds *kasi na-*realized *ko na kailangan na rin mag-*invest *ng pera...*

Do you buy your own jewelry?

Oo, pero pinapatingin ko muna sa mommy *ko kasi marunong siyang tumingin ng* diamond *kung* perfect *ba 'yung* stone, *alam niya kung nadadaya siya.*

What's your favorite label or brand of clothes?

Old Navy.

How about designer?

Fanny Serrano and Ariel Agasang.

Do you still have the same manager?

Yeah, Alfie Lorenzo, Tito Alfie. *Medyo nag-*mellow *na siya...* before *kasi* hyper *'yan kapag nagagalit.*

Was Alfie your manager when you started in show biz?

My first manager was Jess Sosida, *siya talaga 'yung tumulong sa akin noon since* "Ula" days at "Kaming mga Ulila," then *ako nang mag-isa.* After I did two movies with Regal *at saka ako hinawakan bilang artista ni* Tito Alfie. *Siguro mga* seven years *na.*

Now, let's go to the subject of love . . . Who is it now? *Naku po.* (Laughter) **What's the real score between you and Piolo?** (Laughter) Aside from the fact *na pareho kaming naka-pula ngayon eh wala . . .*

How often do you see each other?

Siguro sa one month... *masuwerte na 'yung tatlong beses kami nagkikita.* Before *kasi kapag* Sunday, *nagpupunta ko sa* Pampanga *para mag-*visit *sa* church. Since *naging* busy *na ako* lately *sa* chapel *na lang ako nakakapagdasal.* Usually *kapag may* taping, *may* presscon *o kaya kapag pupunta kami sa ibang bansa at gusto niyang sumama nagkikita kami.*

He still look for projects *na alam niyang bagay sa akin. 'Yung* movies *naman kasi kontrata na iyon eh. Kumbaga siya na lang 'yung nakikipag-tawaran sa presyo at nag-aayos ng* schedule *ko. Siya ang nakiki-pag-away...*

We heard that your show is the highest-rating show on Channel 2. How do you feel about it? *Parang* 40 plus percent audience share...

O talaga, masarap pero actually *'yung tatlong* shows *talagang naghahatakan.* Wish *ko lang na maging* consistent *ang* rating *ng tatlong* shows. *Ang hirap kasi ng ngayon ka lang mataas tapos biglang bababa.*

How's your relationship with Claudine?

Okay *naman. Mag-kaibigan kami. Kasi* before *nung wala pa 'yang mga intrigahan na ganyan talagang magkaibigan kami. Nagkataon lang na pati* shows *namin eh magkasabay din kaya iniintriga din. Tapos 'yung sa mga ka-*love team, like *'yung kay* Rico Yan... so *hindi na lang napag-usapan at pag-nagkikita kami* civil *naman kami...*

Who are your closest friends in this business?

Si Piolo, *given na iyon.* Gladys Reyes, Beth Tamayo... *'yung hindi artista, si* Joyce Bernal. Usually *kasi mga non-*showbiz *'yung iba ko pang mga* friends, as in friends from before, and behind the camera *ang trabaho nila. Mas* at ease *kasi akong makipag-usap sa mga tao nang hindi nakikita ng ibang tao, 'yung kapag gusto mong maging ikaw, sila 'yung gusto kong makasama.*

***'Yung* character *mo sa* soap opera, how much of her is you?**

Hindi ako palaban sa nanay, ha. (Laughter) Minus *pachochay na palaban sa nanay, siguro mga 60 percent.*

Which aspects?

'Yung pagiging responsible. *'Yung tumatahimik na lang kapag napupuno na, minsan lang sumasabog. Hindi ako basta-basta nagagalit, mahaba ang pasensiya ko, pero huwag mo ako gagalitin. Para sa akin ibang klaseng tao ka kapag napagalit mo na ako. Ibig sabihin talagang* foul *na 'yung ginawa mo.*

When did you last get upset? What was it that upset you?

Siguro about a month ago, *sa* P.A. (personal assistant) *ko, kasi ang dami niyang nakakalimutan na mga gamit* ever since the day she started, that was like two years ago. So *talagang pinagbibigyan ko kasi di ko talaga kayang magpaalis ng tao... pero dahil siguro sa sobrang dami ko nang pinagpasensiya dumating sa puntong ganoon. Ang dami niya nakakalimutan, 'yung mga* continuity *ko sa* shooting, *mga import-anteng bagay... Kahit ilang beses ko na sinabi di niya pa rin nadadala,* so *sabi ko, "Ano bang problema mo sa buhay? Kulang ka ba ng* memory card *sa utak?" Nagalit ako pero sandali lang, basta nalabas ko lang ang galit ko,* okay *na iyon. Hindi ako nagmumura ng* directly *sa tao...*

Your skin is beautiful, how do you maintain it? Do you have a beauty regimen?

Yelo lang kapag talagang pagod na, toner *kasi kailangan na malinis 'yung skin mo bago ka matulog. Kapag tapos na ang trabaho,* automatic *tanggal ang* makeup, *kung hindi kailangan ng* makeup, *di naman ako naglalagay.*

Hindi ba* disrupted *ang* sleeping pattern mo? *Kasi di ba 'yung ibang mga artista hindi nakakatulog* after 12? *Ganoon ka ba?

Naku, iba talaga ang araw ko, usually tanghali ang tulog ko. Minsan 24 hours *ako walang tulog. Minsan ako mismo nagugulat kasi pag patak ng* 12 midnight *o mga* 2 a.m., *gising na ako.*

What do you do if you are home and you can't sleep?

Nanonood ng TV, *nagkakalkal ng gamit. 'Yung oras ko na kesa ipahinga ko eh alam kong kailangan kong mag-ayos ng gamit, nag-aayos ako.*

Are you ready for adult role, more mature roles? Like Rica Peralejo?

Hindi ko masagot 'yan. (Laughter)

Even now that you're sexy?

Hindi ko kaya. Wala akong tiwala sa sarili ko. Sobrang kulang pa 'yung kumpiyansa ko sa sarili ko. Mahirap magsalita ng tapos pero malayo pa siguro 'yon. Kung talagang gagawa siguro ako ng sexy film *eh talagang kailangan sa pelikula at maganda 'yung* project, *'yung* director, okay *lahat, pang-*award.

Who among the directors you have worked with are you closest to?

Joyce Bernal... *direk* Jerry Sineneng, *direk* Lore (Reyes)... Boots Plata. *Sila 'yung mga direktor na nasasabihan ko ng problema.* Open *ako sa kanila kasi alam kong kaya nilang sundutin 'yun sa akin kapag mayroon akong eksena na kailangan gawin.*

What is your dream role?

Before *kasi gusto kong gawin 'yung* "Dyesebel." (Laughter)

Daring *'yon...*

*Oo nga eh, naisip ko rin 'yun noong tapos na eh, ino-*offer *nang gawin, sabi ko hindi na pala at nagbago na isip ko.*

You turned down the offer?

Oo, nag-isip ako bigla. Sinabi ko lang na gusto ko 'yun pero hindi ko pala talaga kayang gawin. Hindi ko kayang magpakita ng dibdib dahil wala naman akong ipapakita sa kanila.

But now what is your dream role?

*Gusto ko 'yung mala-*Gabriela Silang. *Gusto kong ipakita 'yung pagiging* independent *ng mga babae, pagiging* strong *ng mga babae. Hindi naman* hero *ang dating, basta gusto kong ipakita ang isang* side *ng mga babae hindi 'yung puro lalaki lang ang pwedeng mag-*save *ng kung ano...*

Is it easier for you to do drama than comedy?

It's hard for me to do drama *kapag masaya ka siyempre pero sobrang madali kapag problemado ka kasi isang ganon lang iiyak ka na, eh sobra kasing mababa ang luha ko.* And since *napaka-*sensitive *kong tao, madali akong maapektuhan ng mga linya... sa* comedy, *lumalabas lang 'yung natural na pagiging komedyante,* effortless. *Mahirap lang mag-*comedy when you're really down, *mahirap bumato ng* punch line *kapag mabigat ang pakiramdam mo. Pero iba-iba lang ng atake, depende sa direktor talaga.*

You started at a very young age in show biz, do you feel that you've lost something along the way?

Wala naman masyado. Hindi naman, kasi ang work *ko hindi naman talaga* work, *parang* playtime *lang.* I work because *nandoon ang mga* playmates *ko sa trabaho, 'yun ang nakatatak sa utak ko. 'Yung mga* playmates *ko, mga* cameramen, *mga* crew, *hindi na mga bata. Mas malalapit ako sa mga matatandang lalaki 'nung bagets ako kasi naghahanap ako ng* father image.

Among your leading men, who is your favorite?

FPJ. (Laughter)

***Nakakita ka ng* father image?**

(Laughter) *Nakaka-*tense at first *pero masarap siyang katrabaho. Totoo 'yung sinasabi nila na aalagaan ka talaga at kapag nagre-*reduce *ka talagang makakalimutan mo kasi* he has the best chef *sa bahay nila. Kapag nalaman niya paborito mong pagkain, pinapahanda niya...* whatever you want.

What was your favorite? What did he feed you?

Hipon... suahe... 'yung isang buong suahe akin lang, walang pwedeng gumalaw niyan... sobrang bait.

What is it like working with Mickey?

Okay *naman. Pero hindi kasi ako ma-pulitikang tao.* Sorry, *pero bobo ako sa pulitika. Even before, parang masyadong kumplikado sa akin ang buhay pulitika.*

Nanligaw ba siya sa iyo?

Sabi niya hindi... Sabi niya. Basta nagpapadala lang daw siya ng flowers.

Didn't he say on television that you are his crush?

He's been very vocal about that. *Sinasabi nga niya na* crush *niya ako...*

But he never told you personally?

Before... Then *wala lang*

***Baka* you rejected him?**

(Laughter) *Dinadaan niya lang sa mga biru-biro, mga pasakalye, eh ayoko nang ginaganon ako.* Not in front of everybody... *Parang, pinagti-tripan mo ba ako? Teka muna. Pero* okay *'yun,* we're good friends. *Malalaman mo naman kung* click *kayo pero wala kasing* magic...

How about Rico Yan, did he court you?

No.

But did you go out on a date?

Hindi formal date. *Nanood kami ng sine, biglaang yayaan. Bigla kaming nawalan ng* schedule *eh, nag-kayayaan lang.*

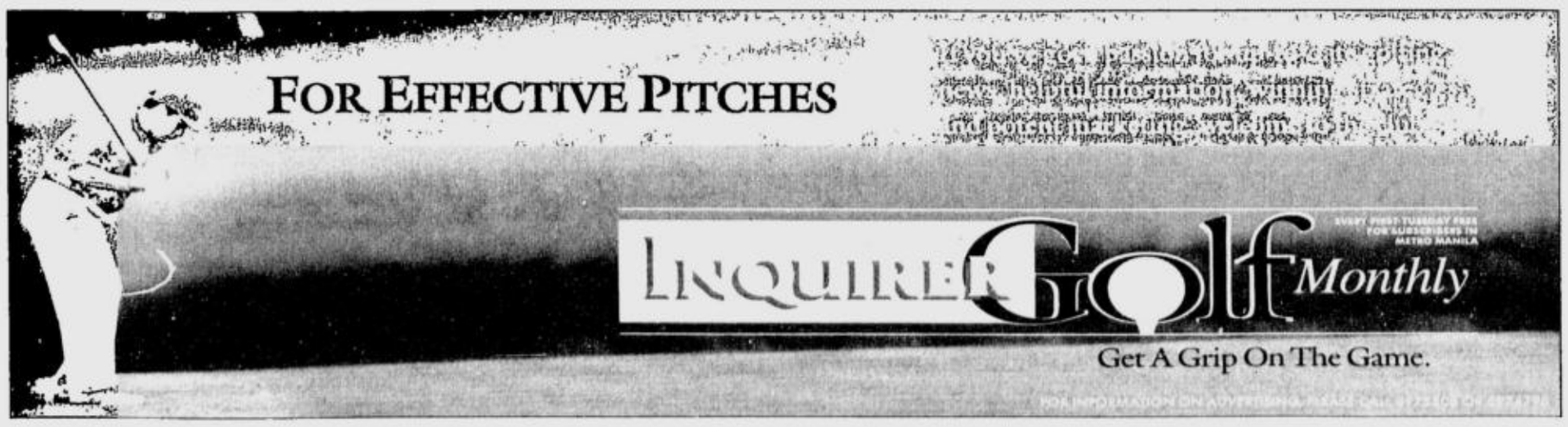
But do you and Piolo do that? Have you gone to a movie together?

Hindi pa yata... Eh depende naman sa tao 'yun kung pormal siyang magtatanong, kung magtatanong siya nang rugged, *eh wala...*

Are there other guys who are showing interest?

Meron naman...

DON'T/ p.F4



Don't cry for Judy Ann Santos

(From page F3)

It's gonna be hard for a guy to do that because you're so popular, you're a big star...

I know, *pero nasa kanila naman 'yun kung paano nila ako nakilala, sa akin kasi*, it's up to you *kung ano 'yun tingin mo sa akin. Pero kung nagkakilala tayo at nagkaroon tayo ng* chance *na lumabas, nasa iyo 'yun kung mai-*intimidate *ka.*

You did a movie with Cesar Montano, how was that?

That was fine. *Hindi naman kasi* full-length *ang* character *ko doon, singit-singit lang ako doon. Nagulat na nga lang ako kasama ako sa* billing. *Masarap ka-trabaho si Cesar,* no wonder *marami nai-*in love *sa kanya.* He's very *malambing, maalaga. Siguro* given *na iyon sa mga* action stars, *dapat inaalagaan talaga nila ang kanilang mga* leading ladies. *Kailangan nilang maging* gentlemen...

How about Ramon "Bong" Revilla?

Si "Gob" gentleman *siya. Ma-alaga din. Pero una kasi nakakatakot 'yang mga* action star *na iyan, kung tumingin para kang kakainin... Parang may atraso ka sa kanila... Pagdating mo titignan ka mula ulo hanggang paa. Si* Bong *masarap patawanin, 'yung tawa niya parang tawa ng* bagets, *nawawala 'yung mata niya kapag tumatawa siya pero bagay naman sa kanya kasi* cute *siya.*

Rudy Fernandez?

Di ko pa siya nakakasama...

Phillip Salvador?

Hindi pa rin...

***Si* Erap?**

Hindi pa... at mukhang hindi ko na siya makakasama. (Laughter)

Where do you go with your friends?

Movie, mall.

Can you still go to malls?

Oo naman... Nagpupunta ako sa mall *nang magisa. Sa* Greenhills, *sa mga tiangge... Kasi kapag namimili naman ako, hindi sa isang lugar lang... Kung babatiin ako sasagot ako ng* hello, *pero kung hindi deadma lang...*

Don't they jack up the price if they see that you're the one buying?

Hindi, talagang nakikipag-tawaran ako sa kanila... Minsan, namalengke ako sa Farmers... *'Yung mga tindera hindi nila alam kung maniniwala sila na ako 'yung nakita nila. Nagtatanungan sila pero ako pumipili lang ako... Nakakaintindi ako ng usap nila kasi Kapampangan, eh half-Kapampangan ako...* father side...

Di ka naman sinasaktan?

Hindi naman, kasi when you treat them nicely and you're one of them, *hindi ka nila sasaktan...*

Some stars complain that they get pinched, etc.

Iba naman 'yun. Minsan kasi hindi maiiwasan na may nanggigigil sa iyo sa mga probinsya. Pero minsan nga mas rude *'yung mga tao sa* Manila *kaysa sa probinsya. Mga tao sa probinsya, kuntento na sila na makita ka nila pero dito parang di sila kuntento hanggat wala silang nakukuha na* something from you, *maging hibla ng buhok mo...*

How many movies have you made?

Maybe more than 30.

What about television?

"Kaming mga Ulila," Channel 7 then, "Ula," "Mara Clara," "Esperanza," *tapos itong* "Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka." So, *lima.*

Are you wise with your money?

I hope so, *basta may tinatabi ako* for my future.

What made you decide to go into the restaurant business?

Aside from the fact *na hindi* stable *'yung* job *namin—nandito kami ngayon, bukas wala na kami—* I felt that it's about time *na mag-*business *na ako dahil pinag-ipunan ko talaga ito.* I always see to it *na nagse-*set aside *ako ng* certain amount of money from each project *para makapag-ipon. Ito nga nang i-*offer *sa akin ito, siguro* blessing *na rin dahil tambayan ko ito* before. *Kumbaga, ang talagang pinagdadasal ko lang noon eh magkaroon ng* business *na talagang gusto ko at* inspired *akong gawin. Inu-offer sa akin ito* at a very reasonable price. *At isa pa, kilala na ito,* established *na.*

So this is your first business venture outside show business? *Meron ka pa bang ibang plano?*

*May mga sidelines din kami. Puwede mag-*catering. *Iba-iba, like ngayon nagko-*concentrate *ako talaga sa* bar, *sa* improvement *niya. Ako kasi nagiisip ng mga pwedeng maging* activities. Like poetry reading, *may* main discussion after the poetry reading. *Maglalagay ako ng mga* self-help books. *Ako kasi gusto ko na may* touch *pa rin ng* personality *ko itong* restaurant *ko.* Since *hindi ako masyadong ma-*gimmick... *Pero hindi ko sinasabi na* anti-social *ako—mas gusto ko pang magbasa ng mga* self-help books *kapag halimbawa sa* taping *at walang ginagawa. So gusto ko ilagay dito 'yun* to share with others *kaysa naman nakatambak lang sa bahay.*

How often are you here?

Siguro, sa isang linggo, mga two to three times a week. *Pumupunta ko para ma-*check *ko 'yung* staff and every week I come up with a dish, pasta or salad—dessert *na ako mismo 'yung gumawa,* then *ituturo ko sa kanila.*

So you like cooking? What are your specialties?

Parang therapy... Pasta, salad...

What time is [Café Kilimanjaro] open?

We open at 6 p.m. Closing is *mga* 3 or *mga* 2:30 *ng umaga. Pero may plano kami na mag-*open for lunch, *di ko pa lang alam kung kailan.*

Is it always crowded like this?

May araw na puno, may araw na okay *lang.* Usually during Wednesdays and Thursdays *maraming tao.*

How big is the staff?

Twelve. *Hindi kami lumalampas ng* 15.

It's a cozy place. Who decorated it?

Ganito na ito, nagdagdag lang ako ng konting gamit like the sofa, etc. *Walang* dress code. It really doesn't matter *kung naka-*duster *ka basta't nasa tamang pag-iisip ka at magbabayad ka.*

What else do you want to achieve *sa* career *mo*?

Marami pa eh. If you're an artist you just don't stop there. You want to try new roles, new things, different characters...

Let's talk about awards...

(Laughter) *Wala ako noon... Mga* nominations lang... *Siguro kahit sinong artista pinapangarap na makakuha ng* award, *parang tatak mo iyon eh...*

Box-office awards?

Meron, pero 'yung mga acting awards, *wala pa...*

Who are the other directors you'd like to work with?

Direk Olive Lamasan, *direk* Joel Lamangan... *Gusto ko rin ma-direk ng mga bagong direktor ngayon like sila* Jef Jeturian *pero hindi* sexy film. *Bilib ako kasi 'yung takbo ng utak nila pagdating sa paggawa ng pelikula, talagang* wild, *'yung may galaw. Parang* exciting, very experimental.

Have you done stage?

No... *May* offers. *Gusto ko pero hindi kakayanin ng* schedule *ko.* Actually, *ang habol ko kasi sa* stage *'yung disiplina sa* time *at* responsibilty *mo* as an *artist. At pag* stage play *kasi, walang mataas, walang mababa... Lahat kayo* performers... *Nagkataon lang na malaki* role *mo pero* performer *ka rin, di mo madadala sa pangalan...*

***Halimbawa may* offer *na* musical...**

Hay naku po. (Laughter) *Sa gilid na lang ako.*

Bakit? May album ka...

Oo nga eh...

Before *ka ba nag-*album, *nag-*voice lessons *ka muna?*

Sa Center for Pop (Music)... *Nag-*try *ako mga ilang* sessions. *Ang natutunan ko humawak lang ng* mike. (Laughter) *Kasi hindi ako nagpatuloy...*

***Sino nag-*offer *sa iyo ng* album?**

Viva Records. *Si* Boss Ricky. *Inalok nila ako gumawa ng album. Sinabi ko na baka naalimpungatan lang sila o inaantok, nasapian kaya at sinabi ko na mag-isip ulit sila. Pero nung nag-*recording *na, seryoso sila!*

Do you go out a lot?

Hindi talaga. Ako kasi papasyalan ko lang 'yung place *para malaman kung ano klase 'yung* crowd. *Tapos* after that, *ayoko na. Hindi rin kasi ako mahilig sa mga* rave parties, street parties, *pero* I try to introduce myself *sa mga ganyang bagay, unang-una kapag may movie ako na kailangan kong gampanan ang* role *ng isang* yuppie, *kailangan astang* yuppie *ka, hindi ko alam kung paano, hindi ko kayang mag-*backless *ng madaling-araw, di ba umuulan na naka-*backless *pa rin sila, baka pulmonyahin kayo niyan. Kaya rin siguro hindi ako* type *ng mga* AB crowd, *kasi* when I go out *hindi ako pumoporma talaga* unless *galing ako sa* show *o* promotion. *Pero* usually *naka-*pants *lang ako at polong puti...*

Hindi ko rin kasi kayang magtagal sa isang place *na puro Ingles 'yung naririnig ko. Ewan ko pero hindi ako comfortable... 'yung mga salitaan nila parang ewan... Parang may 'twang' sila na. Parang conio ka na nga, mayaman ka na nga, kailangan mo pa bang ipagmamalaki?*

Wala bang nanliligaw sa iyo from the AB crowd?

Wala... Kahit sa CD crowd. (Laughter)

Baka naman tumandang dalaga ka...

Huwag naman sana...

How old are you now?

23.

How old is Piolo?

24.

What are the things that make you feel depress?

Sobra kasi akong sensitive *eh.* Little things *na nasasabi* against me or *nababasa ko* (personal) *lalo na kapag sa pamilya, nasasaktan ako.*

Minsan gusto ko lang, mag-isa ako... Sa hotel *or sa malayo, walang* cell phone and all...

Dapat pala may* vacation house *ka...

*Nasa plano pero hindi pa sa ngayon. Bumili ako ng bahay pero hindi pa bayad. Naka-*loan *pa rin siya hanggang ngayon.*

Did you decorate it yourself?

Yeah, *pero hanggang ngayon di pa rin maintindihan ang ayos ng bahay ko.* (Laughter)

***Mahilig ka daw mag-*collect *ng* candles...**

*Oo pero ngayon nag-*stop *muna ko bumilibili ng mga kandila, di ko pa kasi naaayos kaysa naman nakatambak doon...*

What else do you collect aside from candles?

Picture frames. Simple things. *Napakababaw kong tao, eh.*

Do you smoke?

No, but I know how, *kasi sa* anthology *kailangan marunong ka kasi ang* role *ko pok-pok tapos ang sagwa naman kung hindi ako marunong mag-yosi.*

Do you drink?

Yes. Before *talagang* drink and be merry, *pero ngayon dahil nakikisama sa mga kaibigan.*

What did you drink?

Tequila. *Kapag inumpisahan mo na kasi ang* Tequila *'yun na parang hindi ka na puwedeng mag-*shift *ng* course.

***Kung isasa-pelikula 'yung buhay mo,* drama *ba siya* or comedy, romantic or bold?**

(Laughter) *Komplikadong buhay,* a little of everything. Minus the action *dahil hindi naman maaksiyon ang buhay ko.* Full of emotions. *Napaka-*intense *ng buhay ko kung isasa-pelikula.*

What would you change about yourself?

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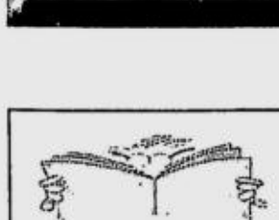

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or SEND THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME INDICATING THE POSITION CODE
WITH 2x2 PHOTO TO:
HRD OFFICER
HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT
#130 P. CRUZ ST., SAN JOSE, MANDALUYONG CITY
or e-mail at
blim@philvending.com.ph

SCAD SERVICES (S) PTE., LTD.
Block 23, Phase IV, Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Rosario, Cavite

If you're a dynamic, hardworking individual and possess the qualifications we are looking for then apply now... and be part of one of the largest wood manufacturing company in Asia.

Assistant Manager for Training and Recruitment
- Male/Female
- Must be 35 years old and above
- Graduate of Management or Psychology preferably with Master's Degree in Industrial Relations
- With at least (3) three years of experience in all phases of Human Resource Management and Training, preferably exposed in manufacturing company with over 1,000 employees is an advantage

Assistant Supervisors
- Male/Female at least 20-30 years old
- Graduate of Engineering and Management
- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- Knowledge in machine operation for wooden product

Company Nurse
- Female between 21-27 years of age
- Must be Registered Nurse
- People oriented and can work on extended hours
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- With or without experience

Accounting Staff
- Female 21-27 years old
- Graduate of Accountancy
- With 1 or 2 years experience
- People oriented and can work on extended hours
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive

Receptionist
- Female between 20-25 years of age
- Graduate of any course
- With 6 months experience
- Computer literate
- Tall, Smart, Strong and Dedicated to her work
- Good oral & written communication skills

Production Based

Truck Head Driver (urgent hiring)
- Male at least 35 up to 40 years old
- High school or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With professional Driver's License (R Code- 6 & 3, 2, 1)

Mechanic
- Male 20-27 years old
- Must be Vocational or College Graduate (Automotive)
- With at least 6 months experience as mechanic
- Knowledge in machine trouble shooting
- Familiar with compressors

Electrician
- Male 20-27 years old
- Vocational or College Graduate (I.T./Electrical Course)
- At least 6 months experience as electrician
- Knowledge in AVR control
- Can read electrical diagram symbol

Forklift Operator
- At least High School graduate or College Level or Vocational Course
- 20-27 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

You can mail or hand-carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address. For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849. Look for Christian or Mai or you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@yahoo.com

Asian Terminals Incorporated

ATI, a publicly listed operator of international sea ports and commercial logistics provider affiliated with P&O Australia Ltd., announces opportunities for the following:

SAFETY MANAGER
- Male, not more than 45 years old
- Engineering degree or Environment/Health/Safety field equivalent
- At least 5 years experience in health, safety & environmental management in a multinational firm
- Accredited safety practitioner / consultant

MARKETING OFFICER
- Female, business course graduate
- At least 3 years supervisory experience in marketing from a shipping company, import / export firm or related industry

INVESTIGATION OFFICER
- Graduate of Criminology, Law or with Law units
- Experience in investigative work such as administrative cases, pilferage, and all other cases relating to violation of company policies
- Good in oral and written communication skills
- Computer Literate

CRANE OPERATOR TRAINOR
- Male; not more than 45 years old
- Preferably a Licensed Engineer
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- Knowledgeable with the operations of the following cargo-handling equipment: Quay Crane, Heavy Forklift, Rubber Tyred-Gantry, Sideloader / Toploader, Reach Stacker and Tractor

Send your application letter, resume with photo and transcript of records on or before August 24,2001 to
The Human Resource Department
ASIAN TERMINALS INCORPORATED
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
or e-mail : JConer@asianterminals.com.ph

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www.geospatial-solutions.com

LEADERS IN GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY.

GeoSpatial Solutions is an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) company that specializes in the development of Geographic Information Systems.

We are looking for the following ICT Professionals to be part of our team:

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS
LAN topology and software familiarity, LAN bridges and gateways, servers and other IT peripherals; knowledgeable in Windows NT, RDBMS set-up and networking; preferably an ECE, Comp. Sci. or Eng. graduate

INFORMATION OFFICERS
Preferably a graduate of Public Administration with Masters in Public Administration units; with relevant knowledge and experience in local governance

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS
Preferably an Engineering, Science or Computer Science graduate with three (3) years of relevant work experience in systems analysis, development and programming using Visual Basic.

GEODETIC ENGINEERS
Preferably a recent board passer; a graduate of Geodetic Engineering and with an inclination to Computer Science

Apply to us in person or send us your application via e-mail.
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- ✓ Graduate of any business course
- ✓ Marketing-oriented and with existing client base
- ✓ Experience in loan evaluation, packaging, and documentation
- ✓ Personable and with good communication skills
- ✓ Ability to speak Chinese will be given preference

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
- ✓ College graduate
- ✓ Must have at least 3 years working experience in managing local and wide area networks, preferably in a banking environment
- ✓ Well adept in Unix network environment and familiar with Novell and Windows NT networks

IT AUDITOR
- ✓ Certified Public Accountant
- ✓ Not more than 30 years old
- ✓ With IT audit experience, preferably in a Bank

SECRETARY
- ✓ Female, not more than 27 years old
- ✓ Graduate of 4-year Secretarial or any business course
- ✓ With pleasing personality and very good oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Computer Literate
- ✓ Ability to speak Chinese Mandarin is a must

ROVING TELLERS
- ✓ Male, not more than 27 years old
- ✓ Graduate of any business course

Interested applicants may send their letters of application, resumé, and latest 2 x 2 colored picture to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION
Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp.
15th Floor, Tower One, Ayala Triangle
Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

MACO Furniture Store

MC Home Builders Depot
EDSA cor. Pasong Tamo
Makati City

Now Hiring for its EXPANSION! in neeed of the following:

(1) Assistant Manager
With the following qualifications:
- Graduate of Management course
- Male/Female
- 30 years old and above
- With at least 5 years supervisory experience in handling operations and sales people
- Good in oral and written communication
- Computer literate
- With valid driver's license
- Good references

(1) Delivery Supervisor
With the following qualifications:
- Management Graduate
- Male/Female—30 years old and above
- With valid driver's license
- With at least 3 years experience in inventory control and delivery procedures
- Good in oral and written communication
- Can work independently
- Knowledge in computer
- Good references

(1) Store/Sales Person
With the following qualifications:
- Graduate of any course
- With at least 3 years selling experience with good track record
- 25 to 30 years old
- Male/Female
- Good in oral and written communication
- Can work independently
- With pleasing personality
- Good references

Please apply in person at **MC Home Builders Depot, EDSA cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City** bring the following Resumé (CV), copy of Transcript of Records, 2-2x2 colored pictures. Look for the **HRD**.

PUBLICIS - AMA

Top multinational agency is in need of

One (1) Senior Account Planner
One (1) Account Planner

Qualifications:
1. Should have knowledge in marketing, human behavior, social research, consumer behavior and communications theories and principles, consumer history, patterns and trends; and marketing trends.
2. Should possess skills in research design and formulation; interviewing and facilitating; consumer observation; data analysis; consumer insighting; and brand insighting.
3. Should possess the attitudes of openness and sympathy with the consumer and consumer advocacy.
4. Should be flexible and adaptable to all types of projects and have outstanding presentation skills.

Interested qualified candidates may send their resumés/credentials to:

Publicis-AMA, Inc.
10/F, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr., Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City

Wanted for Immediate Hiring

Sales Account Executive
Sales acct. executive with at least 3-5 years in the automobile industry. Must be attractive, with pleasing personality aged 25-35 years old.

Receptionist
Slight secretarial work needed. Experience with the automobile showrooms a plus. Must be attractive with pleasing personality age 21-35.

Customer Service Manager
Must be able to handle Customer situations and high pressure on the job 3-5. Experience necessary.

Chief System Operator
Must be able to handle computer system already in place. Must be a computer graduate adept in handling the computer program - 3 years experience in systems and programming required.

Office Assistant
Preferably male, to assist the office and showroom personnel with daily activities. Janitorial work required.

Head Accountant
CPA a must – 3-5 years experience preferably with SGV training or similar experience.

Company Driver/Messenger

Auto Detailing Operators
Highly experienced in Handling Auto Window Tinting and painting.

*Please drop off your Bio-data with picture or C.V. to **Linden Suites** 37 San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center. Address to Business Center **Suite 405/406 MGL Company**.*

World Class Development Center Needs:

HEAD-HOUSEKEEPING DEPARTMENT
- Must have relevant experience gained from reputable hotel or similar establishment
- Proven managerial track record in a customer service industry
- With strong but pleasing personality
- Service-oriented analytical decision-maker and self starter
- Preferably a Bachelor's Degree in HRM, Management
- Good command of English language, computer literate

FRONT-OFFICE SUPERVISOR
- Must have relevant experience gained from reputable hotel or similar establishment
- Proven supervisory track record in a customer service industry
- Must be proficient in both oral and written English
- Must possess excellent customer service skills, computer literate
- With strong but pleasing personality

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

50-MOTORIZED MESSENGER, CARPENTER, AIRCON TECHNICIAN, ELECTRICIAN & PLUMBER
- With at least 5 years experience on related work

Requirements:
NBI Clearance, SSS No., Barangay Clearance, Diploma/Transcript of Records, Medical Certificate

All applicants should submit their Comprehensive Resumé with picture at:
Excellent Building Care & General Services, Inc.
2/F AM Building, #28 Quezon Avenue, QC

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
At least 2 years old/Female
BS Accounting graduate or other Business related course
Knowledge in General Accounting and Auditing
Computer literate e.g. Excel, Word, etc./Excellent verbal and written communication skills

SECRETARY
At least 21 years old/Female
BS Office Administration graduate or other Business related course
Proficient in using computers and applications e.g. Excel, Word, etc./Excellent verbal and written communication skills

SALESMEN (For Metro Manila and Provincial Assignment)
At least 25 years old/Male or Female

1. For Motorcycle Parts:
Vocational/Technical degree graduate preferably in Automotive
Knowledge in motorcycle parts will be given preference

2. For Food Products and Baby Products:
College graduate, preferably Marketing or other Business related course
Previous experience in selling food and baby products will be given preference/
Excellent inter-personal communication skills

SALESCLERKS
18-25 years old/At 5'1" for Female; 5'5" for Male
Pleasing personality/Preferably with college units
Honest and hardworking/Willing to be assigned in major shopping malls in M.M.

DELIVERY/WAREHOUSE HELPERS
18-25 years old/At least 5'4"/Male
At least High School graduate/Good body built/Honest and hardworking

Please come for interview at 27-B Pineda St., Balintawak, Q.C. Along A. Bonifacio, near C-3 & 7th Ave. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please bring your resumé with col. photo, diploma, transcript of records, NBI/Police/Barangay clearances and employment certificate.

ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation, Inc.
is currently in need of the following:

(2) Internal Auditors
- Preferably CPA
- Not more than 30 years old
- With at least 1 year audit work experience in financing institutions
- With strong analytical & problem solving skills
- Has good communication skills (oral & written)
- Preferably a resident of Central Luzon, Northern Luzon and/or Southern Luzon Regions

(1) HRMA Training Officer
- Must have background in training implementation, training program development and counseling
- A graduate of Behavioral Science or any related courses
- Not more than 30 years old
- Willing to travel

Project Officers
- Graduate of a 4-year course, preferably in Social Science
- 1-2 years experience in developmental work
- Has technical writing skills
- Computer literate in software applications such as Desktop Publishing, Excel, Power Point & MS Word
- Willing to be based in Zambales

Microfinance Officers
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- 1-2 years previous experience in marketing or sales
- Computer literate
- Average communication and writing skills
- Willing to be assigned in our areas of operations (Iba, Masinloc, Subic, San Felipe, Angeles, Olongapo, Lucban, Mauban, Bauang, San Fernando (La Union), Urdaneta, Batangas)

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé to:

Human Resource Management & Administration Unit
ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation, Inc.
12 Sct. Borromeo Street, Brgy. South Triangle, Quezon City
or fax to (063) 3728578/3711427
E-mail: robie_gonzales@pinoycentral.com

A Filipino chain of restaurants with branches in the U.S. is in search of the following DYNAMIC people for its nationwide expansion program:

FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (FDM)
- M/F, not more than 35 years old;
- College graduate in Business Management, Marketing, or other related fields; Master's Degree is an advantage;
- Experience in franchising process;
- Familiar in site assessment, feasibility studies and relationship management;
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

FRANCHISING ASSISTANT (FA)
- M/F, not more than 28 years old;
- College graduate in Mass Comm, Marketing, or other related fields;
- Experience in handling telephone, walk-in, and Internet inquiries;
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Desktop Publishing, etc.);
- Familiar with database management.

Interested parties may send their application letter with their resumé, photocopy of transcript of records, and I.D. photo to:

The Human Resources Manager
Box No. KA-008-01ME
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Building, #636 T.M. Kalaw Street
Ermita, Manila
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
(Subject: KAL-ME)

UBX

U-BIX CORPORATION, a leading office systems provider and a Top 300 Corporation with over P1 Billion in annual revenues, announces its opening for - - -

SERVICE ENGINEERS

To qualify, the candidate must be:

- Graduates in any of the following fields:BS Electrical Engineering, BS Electonic Communication Engineering and BS Computer Engineering
- Ideal would be males, not more than 25 yrs. old
- Must have the dedication and competence for intensive training
- Work exposure in an office equipment business environment, a definite advantage

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resume with photo to:

The Recruitment & Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal
Makati City

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

OUR COMPANY WITH FOREIGN JOINT VENTURE ENGAGED IN SHIPPING / MANNING SERVICES IS IN NEED OF:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- FEMALE
- COLLEGE GRADUATE
- KNOWS HOW TO SPEAK AND WRITE JAPANESE LANGUAGE

PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATION FORMS WITH PICTURE AND YOUR CREDENTIALS TO THE FOLLOWING :

ROLLY DIONISIO / REGGIE DE JESUS

LEONIS NAVIGATION COMPANY, INC.
LEONIS BUILDING 915 PRES. QUIRINO AVENUE CORNER
LEON GUINTO, MALATE, MANILA
(NEAR LRT QUIRINO STATION) TEL. NO. 523-86-46 TO 50

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

(2) Accounts Executives

- Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- Good communication skills (oral and written)
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Team player and can work under pressure
- Proficient in basic Microsoft applications
- Solid presentation and negotiation skills
- Previous sales experience in structured cabling and/or computer services an advantage

*Please apply in person and bring updated resumés with latest 2" x 2" picture on or before **August 21, 2001** at:*

HONEYCOMB BUSINESS, INC.
1708 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

---

A very competitive and prestigious firm committed to provide safe and excellent transport services is in need of a competent and highly motivated individual.

HRD SUPERVISOR

- ☑ Male
- ☑ Between 27 to 40 years old
- ☑ College graduate preferably with post graduate studies
- ☑ With 3 to 5 years actual work experience in personnel management, counseling and industrial relations, training and development in supervisory or managerial capacity.
- ☑ Has worked with a service oriented and labor intensive company or similar experience
- ☑ Familiarity with the Labor Code a plus
- ☑ Proficient in oral, written communication and negotiation skills
- ☑ Mature disposition

Please mail your application with latest ID picture (colored) and resumé to:

Box No. QC 2001-53
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Boulevard corner Oxford Street
Cubao, Quezon City 1109
E-mail: cvd@skyinet.net

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

(FOR CAINTA AND MAKATI)

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (CAINTA)

- Male/Female, preferably single, not more than 30 years old
- College graduate, at least with two years sales experience
- Must have experience in Restaurant/Food Supply, Food Tech/Nutrition and Supermarket Operations

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (FOR MAKATI)

- Male/Female, preferably single, not more than 30 years old
- College graduate, at least with two years, sales experience
- Must have experience in Cleaning Supply/Equipment

For Cainta Call 6607004/6608175; For Makati 8431171/8921638; Bring Bio-data with 2x2 picture.

BULLETIN OF VACANT REGULAR POSITIONS

(In compliance with RA 7041)

(1) **Secretary 1** — SG-7; Item No. OSEC-DECSB-SEC1-5-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; training and experience not required; Eligibility — CS Sub-professional; Preferably with knowledge in government accounting.

Terms of Reference: To provide efficient secretarial services to the unit concerned.

(1) **Clerk III** — SG-6; Item No. OSEC-DECSB-CK3-21-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; training and experience not required; Eligibility — CS Sub-professional; Preferably with knowledge in government accounting.

Terms of Reference: Responsible for the provision of clerical and typing service requirements of the unit.

(1) **Accounting Clerk II** — SG-6, Item No. OSEC-DECSB-AC2-8-1998; Completion of two years studies in college; training and experience not required; Eligibility — CS Sub-professional.

Terms of Reference: To assist in posting in the ledger in preparing financial statements; determine availability by funds and controls by expenditures; type/record financial transaction in the proper journals to take up into account allotments, disbursements, collections, deposits, bills, checks and adjustment.

Qualified applicants must send their resumé, transcript of records, recent ID picture and other credentials to:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
DECS-EDPITAF
Dorm-D, DECS Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

*Deadline for submission of application is on **August 24, 2001.***

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NEGOTIATE well
and ACHIEVE your vision.

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Assertiveness in Communication (Effective Communication Strategy)
Moje Ramos-Aquino
Former President,
Asian Regional Training & Development Organization
August 28 (Tuesday)

Negotiating Your Way to Success (Effective Negotiating Techniques)
Ernie Cecilia
1999 President, Personnel Management Association of the Philippines
August 29 (Wednesday)

Achieving Your Personal Vision in Troubled Times (Effective Career Planning & Management)
Tita Datu Puangco
President,
Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting
August 30 (Thursday)

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Venue: Makati Sports Club, L. P. Leviste St. (formerly Alfaro St.) cor. Gallardo St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
Registration fee per seminar: Professionals-P300, Students-P150, For first 100 registrants-P225, One free ticket for every group of 5, Six free tickets for every group of 15. Fee includes handouts, certificate of completion and snacks.

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Register at the following INQUIRER Classified Ads branches:
Main-Pasong Tamo, Makati City, 897-8808/ 897-2535; G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City 811-4361/ 811-4370/ 811-4012; St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Quezon City 421-1420/ 421-0343; SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City 635-0219/ 637-2008; G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila 527-3342/ 528-0183/ 527-6357.

UBX

***U-BIX CORPORATION**, a leading provider of office equipment, furniture and related office services, is now accepting applications for ---*

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS
(Code : CSO)

- Graduate of any four year- business course
- Willing to do field work to personally interact with corporate clients
- Service-oriented and personable
- Responsible, persevering and mature, not over 25 years old

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
(Code : AE)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- With at least one year field sales experience
- With good communication skills & ability to provide prompt and accurate reports
- Hardworking, assertive individuals who are looking for challenges

We offer a minimum compensation package of P20,000.00 in salaries, commissions and incentives; as well as local and foreign training opportunities to qualified candidates

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resume with photo and transcript of records to: (Code : _____)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

Where you find the best.

JOB MARKET

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Schutter Philippines, Inc., an international logistics company is in need of:

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

- Preferably a Certified Public Acct.
- Minimum 2 years work experience
- With good communication skills
- Computer literate
- Between 22 - 25 years of age

Apply in person between August 13 - 15, 2001 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Please bring your latest curriculum vitaé with photo and transcript of records.

SCHUTTER PHILS., INC.
3rd Floor, Aboitiz Building
110 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City

DAILY E-NEWSPAPER NEEDS

1 FULL-TIME WRITER/EDITOR

- male/female
- fluent in English
- good proofreading skills
- must have newswriting experience
- knowledgeable in PC operations (Windows98, MS Word) and the Internet

1 IT SUPPORT STAFF

- familiar with Windows 98/Linux operations and programs
- knowledgeable in LAN structure, PC maintenance and troubleshooting
- fluent in English

send comprehensive resumé and other documents to e-mail: newslink@info.com.ph or fax number 400-5487

Choosing a career

After seeking the advice of Jaymie's family and friends, she may also listen to her **teachers** and **career advisers**.

Most schools have placement offices that offer guidance on this matter and their opinions are often objective.

Jaymie should not miss the organized seminars on careers and take advantage of the resource speakers' insights on specific careers and jobs.

JOB MARKET

A Women's College in Makati is looking for prospective employees for various positions:

LICENSED ENGINEERS
- Male, graduate of Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering from Mapua, DLSU, U.S.T. and U.P.
- At least 3-5 years work experience as a Project Engineer or Supervisor
- Has thorough knowledge on maintenance of building facilities and building construction
- Computer literate

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- College graduate; Computer literate
- Knowledgeable in HR related matters, preferred
- At least 3-5 years work experience as Executive/Admin. Assistant

FILIPINO, MUSIC & MATHEMATICS TEACHERS
- Graduate of B.S.E. or any related AB/BS course with at least 18 units of Education
- Previous experience preferred but not required
- L.E.T. (Licensure Exam for Teachers) Passer

COMPUTER LABORATORY ASSISTANT
- Male, graduate of a 4-year Computer course
- Knowledge in LAN and computer trouble shooting, preferred
- At least 2 years work experience in computer trouble-shooting
- Proficient in written and oral communication

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé to:

The ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGER
P.O. Box MK-68
c/o Classified Ads Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Atrium Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT **www.jobmarketonline.com**

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

August 19, 2001
Volume 14 No. 24

Mayor Sonny Belmonte

Can He Save Quezon City?

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I'M NOT HERE, THIS ISN'T HAPPENING:
A POSTSCRIPT AND AN OPEN LETTER TO STUDENTS

I read news of the murder of Mark Chua, the engineering student who had written about bribery among certain ROTC officers at UST, and wondered how our legislators would react to it. And true enough, they reacted as I had expected they would, by telling students that it would take at least three years to pass a bill reforming ROTC.

I wrote the ROTC story in my collection, "I'm Not Here, This Isn't Happening" (published in SIM, 5 August 2001) as a way to retrieve memories of my youth in Manila, memories I am in danger of losing as an "exile" in America. When news of Mr. Chua's murder reached me, I realized that nothing much had changed since my experience in ROTC a generation ago.

I appreciate the INQUIRER's granting me this space to send a brief message of support to the students who have taken steps to protest this murder, and to press our legislators to reform ROTC.

The Regional Community Defense Group is the students' first and most immediate contact with the military establishment. I believe the most important word in that name is "community." The military establishment is expected to train soldiers who will defend our people, and respect them, and ensure that their lives are lived with dignity. In many countries around the world, the soldier is the most respected citizen, because he is entrusted with the community's safety, dignity and well-being. To be trained under the guidance of such a noble gentleman would indeed be an honor.

It is obvious, however, that this ideal relationship does not exist in our country. Instead, we have people who teach our college students the wrong values, and who simply make their lives unnecessarily unbearable. And, as in the case of Mr. Chua, we have seen once more that no respect for dignity or human life exists in that establishment.

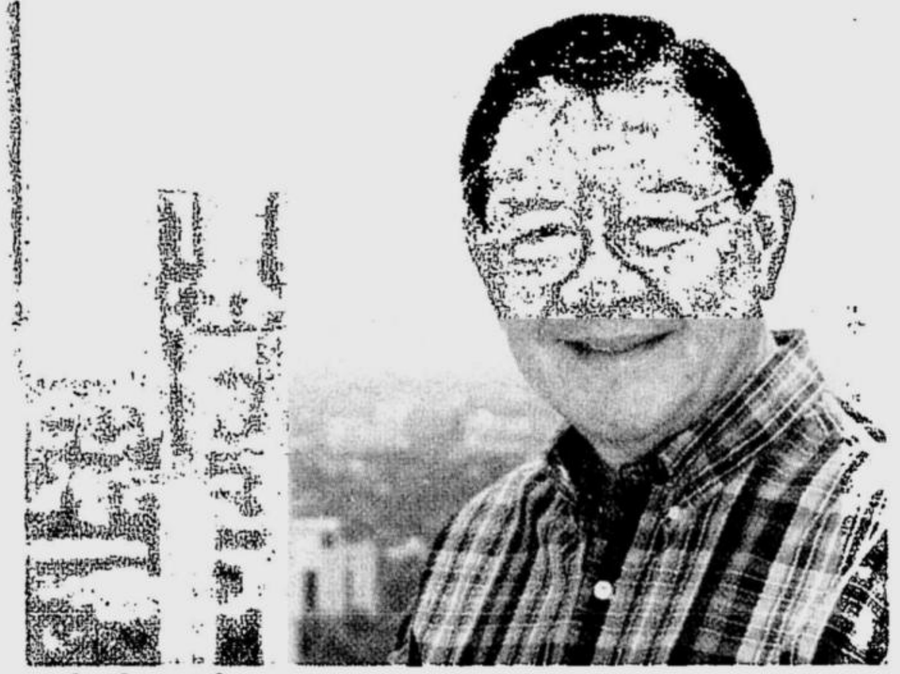
My sympathies go to the family of Mark Chua, and my admiration goes to Romulo Yumul, who wrote the expose with Mr. Chua. They are heroes of our time, at a time when we are again in need of heroes. We are not isolated beings adrift in a sea of apathy and indifference. The loss of one life profoundly affects us all. It profoundly affects our future.

Students, your education is your future. You have every right to shape your own future, and to demand the kind of education you will need to face it. If anything in your curriculum denies that right, or prohibits you from attaining the ideal future that you deserve, then you must take every step to reform or excise it. You must let your legislators know you deserve a better future and the best education available. And you must remind them that the future waits for no one, and neither will you.

ERIC GAMALINDA
New York University

OOOPS!

In the August 12, 2001 SIM cover, photo of Assunta and Alessandra de Rossi taken by Eddie Boy Escudero, we inadvertently failed to credit the beautiful work of make-up artist and stylist **KEI PAGTAKHAN**. SIM regrets the omission.



Cover Story page 8

The Cover Image Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte makes some big promises as he takes over his huge, problematic domain
Photograph by Edwin Bacasmas

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Spice Girl

THERE IS A CONSTANT LOUD BANGING IN THE AIR AS RENOVATIONS ARE BEING MADE TO THE DEFENSOR HOME IN THE POSH QUEZON CITY SUBDIVISION OF LA VISTA. BUT MAITE DEFENSOR REMAINS CALM AND COMPOSED IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS. JUST 30, THIS CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR QC'S THIRD DISTRICT LOOKS SMALLER AND YOUNGER IN PERSON, BUT SHE SPEAKS AND MOVES WITH CLEAR AND CRISP PURPOSE AND CONFIDENCE. AND THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.

"People vote for younger folk because they want something new. They want us to stay idealistic, and not steal and other bad things like that"

Because Maite, born, raised and still living in QC, brings optimism and youth to the often grim business of law-making. Born October 1, 1970 at the East Avenue Medical Center, Ma. Theresa Tan Defensor is the third in a brood of six born to businesswoman Florence and lawyer Matias Defensor, Jr. "I was a very hyperactive child," laughs this Maryknoll College alumna, of her growing up years in Proj. 6 and Araneta Avenue. But it was at UP, where Maite took up Economics, that her path to the national legislature began—with a happy accident.

A self-admitted late bloomer, Maite was a freshman at UP when she was asked to run as councilor in the College of Economics, "because I had made a lot of friends and the winnability factor was there," she recalls. Sure enough, Maite won and went on to top the race for councilor for the University Student Council. Voted chair of the School of Economics Student Council, this Dean's Lister considered herself a balanced student, active in her elected duties but diligent in her studies as well.

After graduating from UP in 1992, Maite worked briefly in the office of then-Senator Santanina Rasul and took courses at the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Special Program in Economics. Keeping busy, she worked as a junior assistant manager for Dao Heng Bank and a senior manager for the consultancy group Anacom Management Corporation. Somehow, she also managed to be an operative in Renato de Villa's 1998 presidential campaign.

She had no idea that she was going to wind up running for public office as well. "Becoming a public servant was always a consideration, although I always intended to get into it much later, as a technocrat appointed to a position. Not like this," she says.

MAITE'S road to electoral triumph began with the popular Edsa 2 uprising in January earlier this year. When her older brother, erstwhile Rep. Michael "Mike" Defensor, was tapped to become head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, her family thought it would be a good idea for one of them to run as congressman. Maite recalls the family discussions: "Mike was very popular in the district because he had helped a lot of people. So there was a clamor in the district for him not to accept the (HUDCC) position. Trying to reach a compromise, (the people) asked my father to run instead but he didn't want to. So it was left to me."

She was taken completely by surprise. "I had to decide very quickly." Her father counseled her, saying that the opportunity to serve the community should go to someone they trusted. "I trust that you will do service to the people in the third district," Maite remembers her father saying. She accepted, "but with my eyes closed," she smiles.

By February, the political neophyte began campaigning for a position she never aspired for. It wouldn't be easy, as she would have to face down veterans at the polls, most notably then senator Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng. "I just took the plunge," Maite recalls. "It was very tiring. I was exhausted—mentally and physically stressed by the campaign." Her brother Mike pushed her hard. "Mike kept

Johnny Villena

It was a "leap of faith," Maite says of her decision to run for Congress

Duet

Like wind,
gravity creates sound.
It can be music
as in the rustle of leaves,
or noise
as in the howl of waves.
The footstep is gravity,
the bird in flight is wind;
the sound each one makes
is a Mozart concert.
Gravity is a plane about to land,
but in the act, wind is an ally.
The thud that comes on impact
is occasioned by wind's second voice.

Alfonso S. Mendoza

Connection

Kung susulat sa iniibig
tiyakin mabuti ang bawat
salita't titik sa napipintuhong saknong.
Kinakailangang maisulat
ang mga nakakikiliting detalye
sa mga nagdaang sitwasyon.
Alalahanin ang lahat
pati na ang pagsasama ng idyoma
ng nag-aanyayang pagpapalitan
ng ideya't tanong.
Huwag na huwag kalimutan
ang puwang sa gitna ng mga buntung-hininga.
At kung mapahinto't
di makita ang pagpintig
ng mga umaalab sa linya,
huwag mag-alala kung di mapupuno
ang espasyo sa gitna ng parirala
ng matinding emosyon.
Pagkat hindi lamang sa mga bantas
ng kuwit, tuldok o tandang pananong
ang pagkakatanto sa pagkadalisay ng pandama.
Nasa pag-uusig sa kahulugan
sa loob ng panaklong
ang kahiwagaan ng lohika
sa mga simpleng aksyon
tulad ng paghahawak-kamay sa iniingatang relasyon.

Elyrah Loyola Salanga

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

telling me, 'You don't have time to learn, you have to know.'" Working hard and hardly getting any sleep to make up for her inexperience, Maite was also upbeat about her chances. "My sincere belief was that I was going to win when I decided to run. It was a leap of faith."

ONE of the more talked-about posters that appeared during the campaign period was Maite's, which featured her in the foreground, and the barely visible image of Mike in the background. Aside from amusing discussions on whether Maite was Mike's sister or his wife, it was Mike's ghostly image that sparked discussion. "It was pure political marketing," Maite explains of the image. "That actually helped because the voters didn't really know me." Additionally, she is proud of winning as a Defensor. "We had the Mike Defensor factor, and we're known in the community."

Running as a fresh face, Maite campaigned under the People Power Coalition with now Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte. After the grueling campaign, Maite emerged on top, but had to celebrate her win from bed. "I was sick and resting," she laughs.

Interestingly enough, Maite was among the set of new and first-time female representatives to Congress who have been tagged as the "Spice Girls," after the "Spice Boys" label used to describe Mike and other personable young congressmen in the House last year.

Maite takes it all in good humor, but also notes that "because of what the Spice Boys had done before, they expect us to be similarly dynamic and outspoken and to stand up for what is right." She adds, "People vote for younger folk because they want something new. They want us to stay idealistic, and not steal and other bad things like that."

As a congresswoman, Maite considers herself a balanced leader. "I make sure that I know what's going on but I also trust those who work with me." As far as her legislative agenda is concerned, Maite puts women's issues at the top of her list of priorities and vows to work on legislation against domestic violence and trafficking. Economic reform is another priority. But a basic framework for her plans is to provide more basic services for the people of Quezon City: "Electricity, water, sanitation. I want to address the basic issues."

LEST anyone forget, Maite can be just like any other thirtysomething. "I like talking with friends and watching videos with them." Harrison Ford ("he's so handsome") and Julia Roberts are favorites. "I've always been a big fan of Gary Valenciano," Maite gushes, "ever since I was younger." She reads different books all at the same time. Though she hardly has any free time, she tries to stay active, playing golf and trying to fit in some jogging whenever she can. "Sometimes I walk over to my friends' house and ask them to go jogging with me—at midnight," she laughs.

Maite considers herself a simple person who is goal-oriented. As a worker, she can be quite messy: "If I'm working, you can't see the floor because my papers are everywhere." But she is flexible and prides herself on getting stuff done. And for someone who values balance in her general being, Maite is seeing someone romantically and fully plans to make time for him. "I do have a life," she stresses.

THAT life went into its next phase when Maite attended her first official function as congressional representative for QC's third district during President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's first State of the Nation Address.

That day was notable for many things, among them her wardrobe. "I was in a *baro't saya*," she laughs. Her first session, right before the SONA, involved the election of the new speaker (won eventually by Jose de Venecia), and turned out to be an immediate learning experience for her. "I was surprised by the delaying tactics," she notes. The old-timers explained why things happened that way. She's heard of how young, idealistic people can be corrupted by power but intends to have none of that. "I think if you're vigilant and concerned with staying clean, you can guard against it."

The learning process for Maite now runs full steam. Much like the wave of events that suddenly thrust her into public service, the sessions in the House of Representatives can be overwhelming but she faces them with trademark composure. "You have to make sure that you can manage your time," she explains.

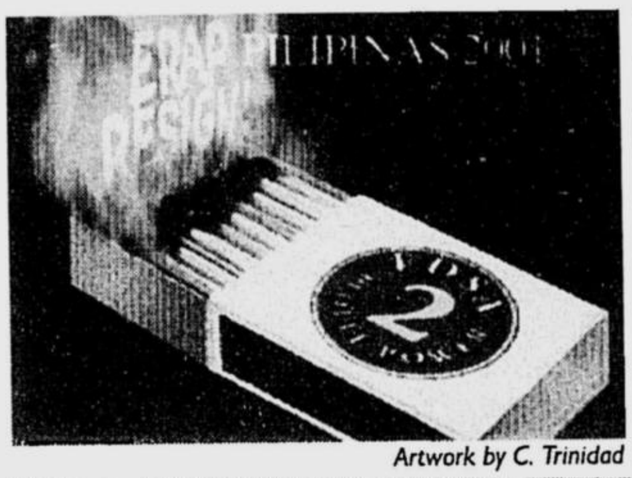
While she considers herself still in the shadow of her prominent brother Mike, Maite knows things are changing. "The shadow's still there, but I think I stepped out of it a little when I won a congressional seat."

Noteworthy

Stamp of Goodwill

Pinoy artists remember Edsa II in the new TB seal

FORTY ARTWORKS AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY 40 FILIPINO ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE LAUNCHED RECENTLY AS PART OF THIS YEAR'S SERIES OF CHRISTMAS SEALS OF THE PHILIPPINE TUBERCULOSIS SOCIETY (PTS). THE THEME "PEOPLE POWER II IN THE EYES OF FILIPINO ARTISTS" INSPIRED A VARIETY OF RENDITIONS BY THE LIKES OF NATIONAL ARTIST ANG KIUKOK, MALANG AND MANUEL BALDEMOR AS WELL AS LENSMEN ED SANTIAGO AND MANNY GOLOYUGO.



Artwork by C. Trinidad

Artwork by Malang

The Philippine Tuberculosis Society is a non-stock, non-profit charitable institution established in July 1910 to fight TB and other kindred diseases in the country. As a means to augment its meager resources, the PTS adopted the sale of Christmas seals as a fundraising campaign. The first seal featured Dr. Jose P. Rizal, and it was subsequently called the Rizal stamp.

After 1910, up to the outbreak of World War II, the Society as an affiliate member of the National Tuberculosis Association in New York was supplied with seals by the association. The Society also became the local distributor of more than 100,000 American Red Cross Christmas seals in 1917. In 1935, the Society came out with President Quezon strip seals.

About 1946, a crudely designed seal appeared on mails, but the Society had no record of its issuance. These unrecorded yellow seals, issued in sheets of six, may well be the rarest of Philippine Christmas seals.

The printing of seals was done in the US or Japan up to 1972, except in 1959 when PTS used US seals, and in 1971 and 1973, when seals were printed locally. Proceeds from the sale of seals enabled the Society to buy a mobile x-ray unit in 1946 and another in 1950, which conducted mass surveys in schools, factories and depressed communities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The Christmas seal design changed yearly, although the theme has always been a depiction of the Filipino Christmas spirit. Contests on TB seal design were sponsored periodically by the Society as part of its health educational program. The winning design was then used during the year's TB seal campaign.

Through the years, the continuing and all-out effort to control tuberculosis has been symbolized by the TB seal — the "little messenger" of charity and goodwill.

Photograph by Ed Santiago

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MEMBER, PANA Truth in Advertising

In Memoriam
by Cesar Miguel Escaño

When Chris Monfort died recently in a tragic accident, Philippine football lost not only one of its prime movers and most zealous organizers. The sport also said goodbye to its biggest fan

For Love of the Game

"IT'S WONDERFUL THAT THE WORLD IS PLAYING FOOTBALL." CHRIS MONFORT WROTE THESE WORDS AT THE END OF ALL OF HIS LETTERS. WHATEVER HE EXPERIENCED AS A YOUTH IN BACOLOD, DRIBBLING THE BALL WITH HIS FEET WHILE PLAYING AN IMAGINARY GAME WITH INVISIBLE OPPONENTS ON AN EMPTY FIELD, CHRIS SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE PERPETUALLY RELIVING. HE NEVER LOST HIS PRECOCIOUS WONDER FOR FOOTBALL AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, HIS DESIRE TO ALWAYS SHARE THE SPORT WITH OTHERS. THAT HE LOVED THE GAME IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT. HE CALLED FOOTBALL "THE BEAUTIFUL GAME," ECHOING THE WORDS OF THE GREAT PELE.

That he loved the game is an understatement. He called football "the beautiful game," echoing the words of the great Pele

When Chris died on June 12, 2001 at the age of 42 due to injuries sustained in a vehicular accident, the country lost a pioneer in football. But more importantly, the sport lost its greatest fan. Chris was arguably one of the finest players the Philippines ever produced. Even when a knee injury forced him off the field, he stayed on the sidelines as a coach, urging his team to victory. He also worked as an administrator at the national level, developing the sport in the Philippines. "It was very exciting seeing him at work. He had a lot of plans for Philippine football," shares Domeka Garramendi, Deputy General Secretary of the Philippine Football Federation (PFF). "It's just sad that he won't be around anymore to see them completed."

Chris was introduced to football at a young age. During elementary school in Don Bosco Bacolod, he spent more time out in the field than in the classroom. Sometimes he even practised alone. "His brothers told me that he wouldn't go back to their farm during weekends," recalls his wife Gina. "*Nagpapaiwan na lang siya sa* dorm to play soccer in school."

Photographs courtesy of Gina Monfort

Chris in his element: On the football field, and enjoying life off the field, as well (below, left)

The dedication and hard work eventually paid off. After joining his school's varsity football team, he was invited into the Philippine Youth Team, composed of the best players in the country. At 15, he was one of their youngest members. Most of his teammates were 17 to 18. When the team had to participate in a football tournament in Denmark, Chris' family financed his trip by selling the family car, a Chevy. "That was one of the highest points in his life," relates Gina.

Chris kept himself busy in college by joining several football clubs. He was a member of the varsity team of the University of the Philippines in Diliman. At the same time, he played for semi-professional teams such as San Miguel and Magnolia. He naturally went on after college to be a member of the Philippine National Team in 1979. After that brief stint, he continued to play football as part of a semi-professional league in Denmark from 1981 to 1982 and as a member of the Real Juventud Football Club from 1983 to 1987.

A knee injury in the mid-1980s prevented Chris from continuing to

play competitively. However, it failed to quench his fiery drive for continued involvement. He diverted all of his energies to coaching and administration. "Chris did not plan to be a coach," says Gina. "But *yung* love *niya sa* football pushed him to coaching *para* involved *pa rin siya*." Garramendi, who worked as Chris' assistant at the PFF, shares, "I haven't met anyone who had as much passion as Chris had for football. Anything about football he wanted to be a part of, whether it was kids playing in the park on a Sunday or top-level competition tournaments."

Chris proved invaluable to the Ateneo de Manila University, where he served both as coach and as athletics administrator. He started as a Physical Education Instructor for the High School Department in 1979. Later, he guided the various varsity teams from grade school to college. From 1997 until the time of his death, he directed the future of Ateneo football as Football Program Head of the university.

Football in the Ateneo flourished during his 20-year stay. His work here on a university level became a blueprint for developing football on a national level, a task he would later undertake as General Secretary of the PFF. "I'll remember him most for his devotion to Ateneo football and his constant desire to have our football facilities constantly improved," says Jun Capistrano, Ateneo University Athletics Director.

Children should begin playing football at an early age, Chris believed. He wanted to introduce football to young children, teaching them basic skills and inculcating in them a love for the game. "He believed in the principle of process," says Arnulfo Merida, who was Chris' coaching assistant and close friend. "It takes years to develop good football players."

Chris applied this principle in overseeing the Ateneo Football Center, a weekend training program for young kids aged 6 to 12. He held the position of director for the longest time, from 1985 until the time of his death. Even with his other responsibilities, Chris devoted his weekends to personally supervising AFC instructors in the training of "his kids." He considered all the young participants his personal responsibility. "*Dito sa* Ateneo *marami akong* kids," Gina recalls a favorite statement of her late husband.

Chris also wished to spread interest in the game. He organized numerous football fes-

To page 12

Who Really Won At Pearl Harbor?

A war brings forgiveness that surpasses human understanding — *by Bing T. Zubiri*

Nice movie — *Pearl Harbor*. Nice special effects. They say 90% historically accurate. A few felt that it was kind of dragging in the first hour and others felt it wasn't really an account of a war — it was more of a love story.

And they're right! It *was* a love story!

But whose love story?

There was a man enraged by Pearl Harbor.

His name was Jacob DeShazer. He was an American soldier in an army camp in California when Pearl Harbor was attacked. When the news came on the air he was peeling potatoes and became so incensed that he hurled a potato against the wall and shouted, "*Jap, just wait and see what we'll do to you!*"

> God ... is able to do IMMEASURABLY MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us ... EPHESIANS 3:20

DeShazer then volunteered for a secret mission to carry out a surprise air raid on Tokyo. On April 18,1942, Tokyo was bombed! Filled with elation at this revenge, DeShazer, one of the bombardiers, flew his plane towards China, but ran out of fuel, was forced to parachute into Japanese-held territory in China and found himself a prisoner of Japan!

For two years, DeShazer was in confinement, treated cruelly. His violent hatred for his guards almost drove him insane. Then someone gave him a Bible. DeShazer read and read and read. He came to Jesus' words, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*." Right then, he knew that that message was his.

That day, Jake deShazer met Jesus and entered into an exchanged life. In his own words, he said, "suddenly . . . when I looked at my guards . . . I realized that . . . if Christ is not in a heart, it is natural to be cruel . . . [My] hatred . . . changed to pity."

Fourteen months later, DeShazer was released from prison. He studied and returned to Japan as a missionary. And he wrote his story in a pamphlet entitled, "*I was a Prisoner of Japan*."

But there was another man. His name was Mitsuo Fuchida. He was general commander of the air squadron that attacked Pearl Harbor. Considered one of Japan's most skillful fliers, here is his account:

The sunrise in the east was magnificent . . . as I led 360 planes toward Hawaii. I knew my objective: to surprise and cripple the American naval force in the Pacific.

Viewing the entire . . . Pacific Fleet peacefully at anchor in the inlet below, I smiled as I reached for the mike and ordered, "All squadrons, plunge in to attack!"

We know the rest of the story. Or do we?

After Pearl Harbor, Fuchida continued to lead air attacks — on the Dutch East Indies, against British bases and ships.

But the tide of war changed. Japan's military force experienced one defeat after another. The Japanese Emperor finally announced that Japan would surrender.

The war ended. Fuchida returned home. Home was a village near Osaka where he began to farm. But farming did not seem to enjoy him. Discouragement set in.

One day, Fuchida got off the train in Tokyo's Shibuya Station, and noticed an American distributing literature. When he passed him, the American handed him a pamphlet. It was entitled *I Was a Prisoner of Japan*. Because he was involved at that time with the trials on atrocities committed against war prisoners, Fuchida took the pamphlet and read it.

He could not erase DeShazer's story from his mind. The peace that the American was talking about in his pamphlet was exactly what he was seeking.

He decided to read the Bible for himself. In the ensuing weeks, he read and read and read until he came to Jesus' prayer: "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*"

That prayer so pierced Mitsuo Fuchida's heart. He felt that he was certainly one of those for whom Jesus had prayed. The attack which he had led had resulted in the death or disappearance of 3,077 U.S. Navy personnel, the wounding of 876 others, plus 226 Army killed and 396 wounded. The many men who were killed had been slaughtered in the name of patriotism, but at that moment patriotism seemed so far away.

Mitsuo Fuchida met Jesus. That was April 14, 1950.

Big headlines appeared in the papers: "Pearl Harbor Hero Converts to Christianity." Old war buddies came to visit him. Some thought he was crazy. Some suspected that his motives were merely publicity or the desire to impress the Americans.

His country asked him to rebuild its air force, but Fuchida declined.

Instead, Captain Fuchida and Sergeant DeShazer traveled together throughout Japan, telling others how Christ had transformed their lives. Over a thirty-year span — together and separately — they saw tens of thousands of Japanese brought to an exchanged life in Christ.

Now, who do you think really won the war at Pearl Harbor?

It was God! Yes, Pearl Harbor wasn't exactly a war account. It was also a love story.

It's the story of God's love. Of how God can use a dreadfully catastrophic and appalling situation to demonstrate His love for two people. And how those two people, in turn, impart that same love to tens of thousands who would otherwise not understand the capacity of a God to forgive a confused and unworthy seeker and draw him to the safe and secure arms of God Himself.

God will forgive me; that is His business. HEINRIC HEINE

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BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Cover Story

By Ana Marie Pamintuan
Photographs by Edwin Bacasmas

A Herculean Task

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THE MAYOR DID – AN UNPOPULAR MOVE, HE WAS TOLD – WAS TO NOT REHIRE SOME 7,000 CASUALS AND CONTRACTUALS WALKING AROUND IN QUEZON CITY HALL. SEVEN THOUSAND WARM BODIES. NOW, THAT SURE WAS GUTS. SUDDENLY THE HALLS AND CORRIDORS LOOK BRIGHT AND SPACEY, LIKE THEY'VE BEEN CLEARED OF FLOTSAM AND JETSAM THAT HAVE CLUNG FOR SO LONG. THIS SHOULD BE A PORTENT, OR – THE BETTER WORD IS – HARBINGER OF THINGS TO COME.

At a meeting, Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr., or SB (for *serbisyong bayan*) for short, holds up folders showing fake receipts of payments made to City Hall to prove that someone made money while Quezon City lost some. He reminds a department head that he has received a letter from the Commission on Audit concerning some unexplainables. He orders another to lower the bids of suppliers by 20 percent. "My way of saying," he explains later, "that I know what's been going on." That there are people in City Hall who are lining their pockets at the expense of the citizenry.

Later, when some eager officials crowd around him and shove papers to him for immediate signing, the mayor says, "No, no. Give me time to study this." He is not to be rushed. He is cool and calculating. Smiling through it all. No harshness.

The newly elected mayor is starting to breathe down some people's necks, though gently. But if his weekly meetings with department heads – a new thing – are a gauge, Belmonte could be considered a hands-on type dead serious on putting his house in order. "Didn't you notice, at the meeting, I was editorializing," says Belmonte, a one-time journalist who became a lawyer. His way of not directly confronting people concerned. Of one department, he says: "Almost everyone there is on the take." Like, quote me.

But don't get him wrong. He wants "even the most venal" to have a chance "to shine." And there are many good and trustworthy public servants in QC Hall.

Belmonte has barely warmed his seat, having assumed office only more than a month ago. He's surprised the Inquirer would take interest in him. To go with the birth anniversary of President Quezon, he's told, who dreamed up QC.

He ain't done much yet, nothing his constituents could be impressed with right away, but the guy is sure where he wants to start – at the center.

So, can this man save Quezon City?

After the impeachment trial of former Pres. Joseph Estrada that led to his downfall, three-term Representative Belmonte (Lakas) who headed the prosecution panel could have claimed a senate slot. "But that would have been opportunistic on my part," Belmonte muses, adding that without the impeachment that put him in the national consciousness, running for senator could have meant losing. But when a senate seat was there for the taking, Belmonte chose to give it up. He ran for mayor and handily won.

"This is more work," Belmonte, 64, reflects and looks back with nostalgia on his years as congressman of QC's 4th district, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Before that, he headed huge financial and business institutions (GSIS, Philippine Airlines, Manila Hotel) and then became an elected public official (congressman, minority leader, Speaker).

He could have taken things easy after that. His four children (Isaac, Kevin, Miguel and Joy) by the late Betty Go (who co-founded the Philippine Daily Inquirer and later, the Philippine Star, and died in

A man and his vision: "QC is a great place to call home and do business"

Hands on: Belmonte examines fake receipts issued by City Hall

Home and hearth: The Mayor (seated, second from right) with his late wife Betty (third from right), children and grandchildren

1994) are all grown up and, the mayor would like to think, they can run the family businesses better than he does. But retiring means battling with boredom, he says. And he loves Quezon City.

Now his area is expanded to a huge, sprawling city in need of determined leadership. It's no joke being mayor of the largest city in Metro Manila with a population of more than two million that grows every minute.

Once envisioned as the country's capital city and seat of government, QC, the once bucolic area east of Manila Bay and Old Manila, the green vastness that offered so many possibilities, is now a tattered version of its old self. The apple of the eye of former Pres. Manuel L. Quezon could soon develop into a total eyesore.

QC is still home to a large middle and upper class population, the intelligentsia from academic institutions as well as small and big businessmen, but it is also now a haven for a staggering urban poor population that came to escape grinding poverty in the countryside.

Of late, Belmonte is pleased to say, Quezon City has become the "NGO capital of the world." Not that this means anything. He sadly notes that Payatas, the QC garbage dump where hundreds died in a landslide last year, has become associated with the Philippines. Payatas is always on his lips, as if it were a Treasure Island he needs to explore and own forever.

But QC could really be – or was – a great place to call home and do business. A former president lives here. The present president's family home is also here. Many major government offices are in QC. The military and police establishments have their headquarters here too. Great academic institutions are found in QC.

Despite these, QC has remained so-so. If only there had been better leadership and planning, more respect and concern for its taxpaying citizenry as well as the poor. More vision. And less politics.

Sunday Inquirer Magazine spoke with Mayor Belmonte recently, in anticipation of the 123rd birth anniversary today of Manuel L. Quezon, first President of the republic and after whom QC was named. QC turns 61 in October.

The mayor revealed an infectious zeal to turn around the state of affairs in the city of his affections. Suddenly there is a surge of possibilities, a scenario of a city coming back to life, its revered institutions and varied citizenry emerging at last from the fog and smog that have hovered for so long. Well, there is no law against hoping.

The air is still far from clean. Many garbage piles grow in many corners. QC has its share of crime, prostitution and drugs. Recent major disasters happened here – the Ozone Disco fire, a landslide, Payatas. Land use policies and sound urban planning have not been fiercely put in place. Unlike some of its next-door neighbors, QC has not positively developed into anything that could be called remarkable. It has a lot of catching up to do. But it has sure has its bright spots. One of them could be QC City Hall.

It is also good news that Belmonte and the vice mayor, the young actor Herbert Bautista whom he calls Herbs, seem to get along famously. "He's good, very popular," Belmonte quips. ``If you're not a good mayor, *kawawa ka.*"

SIM followed the QC mayor around one busy day, extracted some good promises and got a glimpse of his vision. Quezon City denizens have reason to hope. Here's why.

On not rehiring 7,000 casuals and contractuals: "They said that was bad politics. It came as a complete surprise to them. I'm still studying who deserves to be rehired. In the past, city hall was more of a political machinery rather than a seat of government."

What QC is worth: "The budget is P4.7 billion. We have 80 percent, the other 20 percent — I don't know. I genuinely want to reduce our needs, to balance the budget." (He has hired former budget secretary Salvador Enriquez as consultant.)

Special spots in QC: "We have Libis, where a cybercity is developing. In Novaliches there is a commercial area that is developing. We want to build subsidiary roads there. Potential tourism spots are Morato and Timog, which we hope to redevelop to compete with Malate (in Manila). We could connect all these with the North Triangle, QC Circle and City Hall. I've spoken to the Chinese association in Banawe. We could turn the place into a little Chinatown."

On zoning and land use: "We have a nascent land use and outmoded zoning ordinance in QC. They're full of exceptions and loopholes. The high-rises are mixed with residential areas. For a long time QC was Open Sesame."

On special zones: "QC is so huge you could put 50 Marikinas here. I'd like to do something like Marikina, but QC is so big I'd like to first have special zones of law where all laws are followed. Traffic, cleanliness, vending. No, not just in rich areas. These could be zones of development."

On corruption in city hall: "There are inspectors here who do not get to collect even an equivalent of their one-month salary because they're busy doing something else. They examine books but they don't bring in money for the government. They take care of themselves.

"When I said at the meeting that suppliers' bids this year be lowered by 20 percent, that was a daring statement that everybody understood. I meant, *babaan ninyo ang lagay*, cut down on the kickback."

On the QC population: "The rate of increase here is 4 percent, which is higher than the 2 percent national average. The government theory was that if you gave land to the people, they will protect the land from incursions. That's not happening. The solution is more development in the countryside."

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Essay
by Cynthia N. Lumbera

Yes, there was a time when Quezon City was beautiful, clean, a place for pioneering hearts

Sunflowers and Youth

WILD SUNFLOWERS. THAT'S WHAT I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT LOYOLA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY, IN 1969, WHEN I FIRST CAME FOR GRADUATE STUDIES AT THE ATENEO. I WAS FROM DAVAO, A PLACE WHERE, ACCORDING TO MANILA SOAP OPERAS AND MOVIES, ALL "BAD" PEOPLE WERE SOMEHOW BANISHED TO, AND WHERE THE BROKEN HEARTED AND DEFEATED WENT TO MEND THEMSELVES. WHEN I WAS SENT TO MANILA TO STUDY AS AN *"INTERNA"* AT *"SANTA ESCOLASTICA,"* MY EXPERIENCE OF THE FABLED CITY PRETTY MUCH CENTERED AROUND THE VERY OLD AND IVY LINED WALLS AND LARGE TREES WITHIN THE CONVENT WALLS OF ST. SCHO, AND OUTSIDE THESE, MANILA BAY, AND THE QUAINT OR GAUDY SMALL SHOPS IN ERMITA AND MALATE, AND THE OLD CHURCHES.

Coming home from a late movie in Cubao, we would walk the length of Katipunan, eating balut as we tarried along, lingering a long while at the gate of our boarding house, not wanting to let the evening go

But Loyola Heights was something else. Somehow, the place felt like Davao again, a new place just opening up, a place for pioneering hearts.

Ateneo then was a wide expanse of green, where we graduate students made up the few females around. In that revered all-boys' school, the Ateneans sported neat little crewcuts and wore pastel colored long sleeve shirts, casually rolled up.

Outside Ateneo, right across gate 3, was a very big, very old rubber tree. Its roots extended far, and were so big we could sit on them. It seemed to us then that it was such a wise old soul, keeping guard over Katipunan. Erehwon, a branch of the famous book shop in Padre Faura, was where we went to for "specialty books." Erehwon was where I found TS Eliot's "The Wasteland," my most treasured little book then, having just imbibed a fashionable angst and ennui from my graduate classes at the Ateneo. Erehwon was also where I got my complete set of Charlie Brown books, for Charlie Brown was the guru of my generation.

The "Coffee Pot," right outside Gate 3, was one of the few eating places around.. At lunch time, the Coffee Pot would be full of students, eating their favorite *tocinos*, but in the late afternoons, professors and graduate students would linger a long while over their coffee and talk for hours. It was always convivial company.

In the evenings, Katipunan became a dimly lit wide street, with cars and buses few and far between, but we had no fear of muggers or drug addicts. Coming home from a late movie in Cubao, we would walk the length of Katipunan, eating *balut* as we tarried along, lingering a long while at the gate of our boarding house, not wanting to let the evening go.

And the sunflowers! There were fields and fields of them – along Xavierville Road, along the side streets of Esteban Abada, Fabian de la Rosa, Rosa Alvero, B. Gonzales, along Katipunan itself. On weekends, my friends and I would go out to gather them, bringing armloads to our boardinghouse, and then we wouldn't have enough vases to put them in. We had to look for all sorts of bottles and plastic containers for them, and we'd have them in every room in the boarding house, and for the entire weekend, the house would be full of the slightly pungent smell of wild sunflowers. In the evening, to celebrate the sunflowers, we would drink cold beer, play the guitar, and sing, and watch the moon rise on Tatat's porch.

Today, whenever my friends from those days and I meet, somehow we would always still talk about those sunflowers.

Cynthia Nograles Lumbera teaches at the Department of English, Ateneo de Manila University

Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

Closing Time

AT FIRST ALL I HAD INTENDED WAS TO HAVE A COKE. IN FACT THAT'S WHAT I ASKED THE CASHIER-CUM-WAITRESS, IF THEY HAD ANY COKE, BECAUSE I COULDN'T SEE ANY IN THEIR REF — ONLY BOTTLES OF RED HORSE AND COLT 45.

(Editor Note: We want to know what people are thinking these days. Tell us what's on your mind and in your heart. And no, you don't have to be under 30 or over 65 to contribute to this column. We welcome contributions from all ages)

I was on my way back to a table when the man glanced at me, he with the telltale, groggy signs of a bloke who had reached his limit.

A bit later, he wasn't just plainly groggy, but already slumped face-down over a table in front of me. He didn't even look up when a trio of not-so-attractive women entered the sing-along bar. Then one of them began to murder, of all songs, The Corrs' "Breathless."

Maybe "Breathless," like a siren's call, did something to slightly stir him from his drunken slumber, because loose change trickled down from his table. He tried to pick them up but instead fell down to the floor with them. Instead of getting up and righting himself, though, he laid himself down as if the concrete floor had grown soft as a cushion and The Corrs' "Breathless" was as relaxing as "Rock-a-Bye Baby."

Not content with the unusual indignity of trying to sleep on the floor, the man's hand started to inch dangerously close to his groin. Even if he were sober, would he know that the bail bond for acts of lasciviousness is set at P1,200? I don't think so.

Hadn't he ever heard of how one should "drink modestly" – er, I mean, "moderately"?

Some of the women ran away when they noticed what his hand was starting to do. Finally, the petite Chinese cashier couldn't allow him to shock the other customers any further (even though some of us were more obviously amused than disgusted) and the drunken bloke was awakened before he tried to engage in more extreme exhibitionism.

I was sitting at a table near the entrance, so he had to pass me while he was being led away (by the strangely courageous waitress who had the tough luck to serve him) —and he looked as if even the hint of a smile on my face would propel him to lunge at me.

I looked away from him, not out of fear or repulsion, but merely a slight disappointment that the show was over too quickly.

It wasn't even two in the afternoon yet; what did the sing-along bar have to offer except murdered renditions of songs, or a petite, patient cashier not easily shocked by their frustrated singers?

Nevertheless, I stayed. And what kept going on in my mind was the notion that he could have been me. That could have been me. That could have been me.

Do my drunken experiences pale in comparison to the man's spontaneous act of sleeping in a public place?

Hardly. I have been robbed, threatened with an ice pick, had my cellphone snatched—all while under the influence of liquor. I haven't come close, thankfully, to being charged with acts of lasciviousness. I haven't had first-hand experience of the so-called "delirium Tremens" described by cult authors like Jack Kerouac (I forget in which book) or Jim Thompson (in the autobiographical "Bad Boy").

We read or hear about it all the time in the news: drunken people getting stabbed, beaten or themselves stabbing or beating up their fellow drinkers. Those of us who get home unscathed are the lucky ones, never mind the monetary losses that naturally come with every drinking spree.

And yet, we continue to tempt fate. Like a certain gothic song goes, "We're like monkeys on juice."

I used to have this romantic notion that I did it for love, that the drinking was meant to deaden the pain caused by lost love, or forbidden love, or any category of love that went down the drain. This rationale sounds as crazy as the mutterings of a dirty phone caller: "I did it for you, Janine, the booze, the blues—it was all for you." Nope, no sense at all.

Some people wouldn't be caught dead drinking hard liquor. I myself used to find it a real mystery as to how some people could stand the taste of gin, but now I've figured out that it's an "acquired taste." Anyway, the result is the same: whether from a cheap bottle of gin (it'll do you in) or a six-pack: blessed sleep.

It's probably why I drink, and will go on drinking in the first place: not for a love that has died, or some such passionate nonsense, but simply because, night after night, it's the fastest way to get to temporary oblivion, and the space it brings. It's not a one-way trip after all.

It's just a trip.

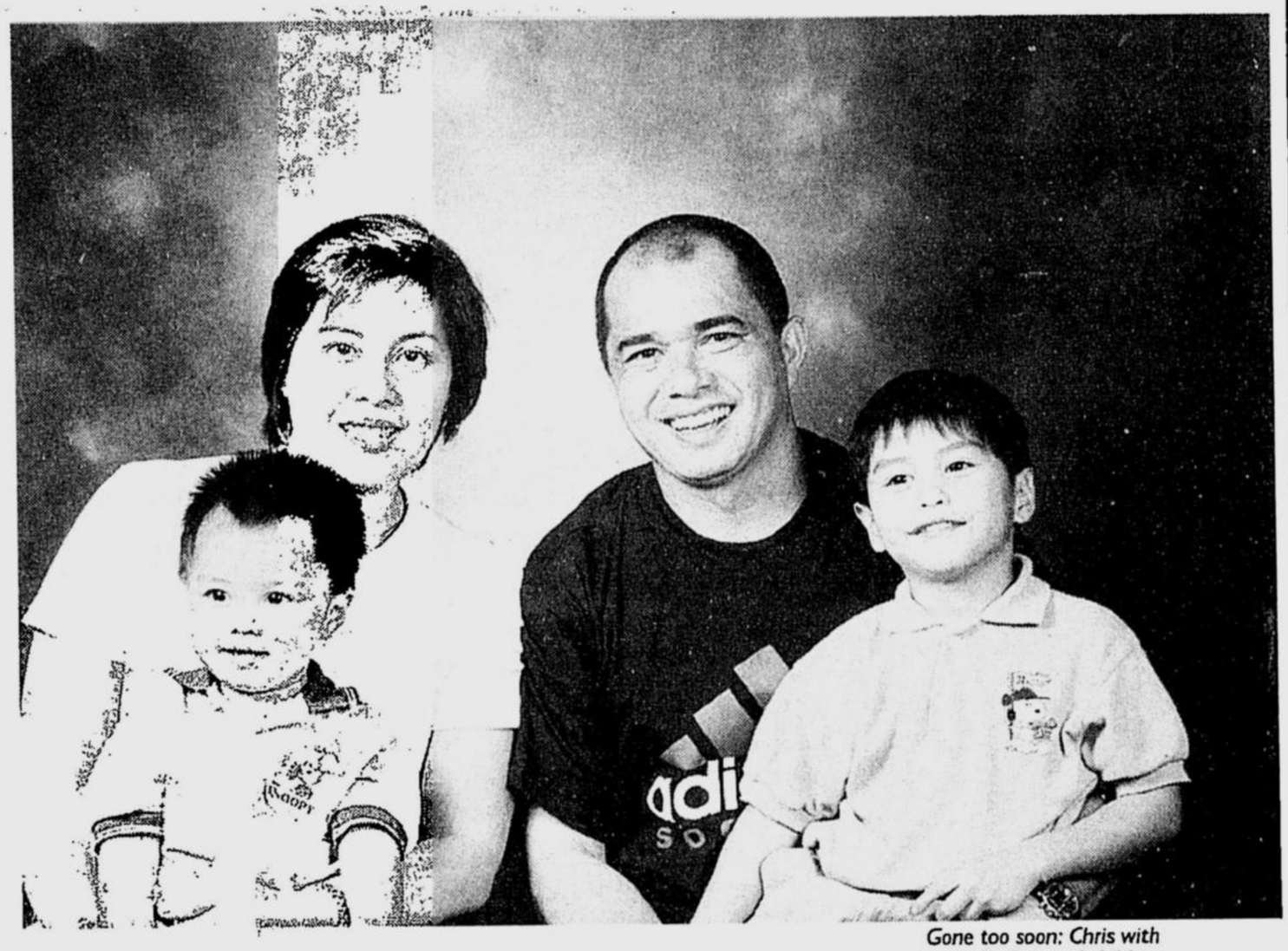
tivals and one-day tournaments held at the Ateneo, and invited teams from other schools to join. "Often funding was difficult to find, but Chris kept insisting that these games be held," says Gina, citing her husband's irrational determination. In fact, as Gina relates, Chris used his own money to finance games whenever funds were inadequate.

Gina recalls that Chris lamented the Filipinos' lack of appreciation for football. "We used to beat Japan and China, he often said. It wasn't about introducing the sport to the Filipino, but reviving what was once very popular in the Philippines."

Eventually Chris got his chance. In 1995, he was appointed General Secretary of the PFF. Vision and vigor for football made him perfect for the job. Now his responsibilities had a nationwide scale.

Some of his goals were to develop football in the country and to spread interest in the sport. A special project called the Kasibulan 6 to 12 brought the sport closer to the provinces. It instituted football as a PE class in public schools. As the name implies, the program was meant to introduce the sport to kids aged 6 to 12.

His most ambitious project was the establishment of the Manila Metropolitan Football League. It was a semi-professional league for players who wanted to continue their playing career after college. But the MMFL was merely the first step in his plan. The end goal was to create a national semi-professional league for football, similar to the PBA. Garramendi supported this, saying, "The MPFL was only for players in Metro Manila. We wanted everyone in the Philippines to have a chance to play in a semi-professional league."



Gone too soon: Chris with wife Gina and children

The game's greatest fan: Chris in his earlier playing years, as a member of the Swift's professional team

With his drive to develop Philippine football, Chris was noticed by international football organizations such as FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation. The latter appointed him Deputy Chairman for its Fair Play Committee in 1998. His clout enabled Chris to solicit funding for the various football programs in the country. An example of this was the Goal project sponsored by FIFA, which provided football equipment to be distributed to the provinces. The project has also implemented training seminars and courses for coaches. These seminars not only teach coaching skills and fundamentals; more importantly, participants receive internationally recognized coaching licenses.

Vince Santos, manager of the Philippine National Football team, believes that Chris secured a promising future for Philippine football. "Football was losing support and was at the brink, but Chris managed to turn it around."

Chris had so many plans and dreams for the sport. "How could the world go wrong with football?" was another one of his favorite statements. He died before he could witness fruits ripening from the seeds he had sown.

Prayer of the Ateneo Football Team
Written by Chris Monfort

We humbly ask you, Lord, to kindle within us the fire that will drive us throughout the game. The fire that will not only make us attack relentlessly and resist valiantly, but also the desire and the heart to hustle, hustle and hustle like this was the last game of our lives. After all, this is a very special game. Help us, Lord, to go beyond ourselves. And should we win, let it be in praise of you. Grant us the humility that all winners possess. Amen.

His death was a blow to the Philippine football community. His many "kids" felt orphaned. "As much as it was a loss to his family, it was also a loss to the Ateneo football family as well," shares Chico Ingles, a product of the Ateneo Football Center and currently a member of the Ateneo UAAP varsity football team.

In her eulogy for her husband, Gina Monfort threw this challenge to the Philippine football community. "I hope that someone would take the cudgels and finish what my husband has started. For if no one does, then that is the time when I can say that Chris Monfort died for nothing."

Twinning: A close partnership in life and in global education

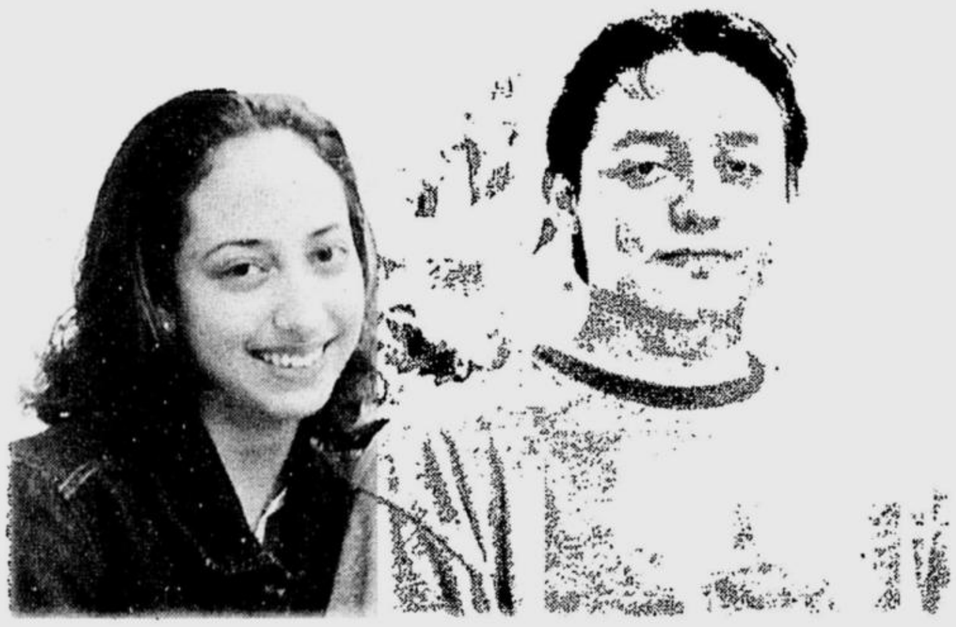
Twins. Lovebirds. Husbands and wives. Partners.

Do great deals come in twos? With the coming of age of the globalized economy, where nothing can be achieved in isolation, it seems that forming partnerships is the best way to go—in personal matters, in business, and especially in education. Twinning is a global concept in education where East and West join hands to prepare graduates to have the best of both worlds.

Two faces. Same roots.

This has always been a fascinating point about twins. How could two people with the same parents, the same background, the same birthdays, so different in some ways yet, similar in their global perspective.

Myri and Mike Pfitzer Madamba, both seventeen years old, born of a German mother and a Filipino father, and, sharing the same birth date, are a perfect example of just how opposite twins can be. Looking at them, Myri practically bursting with excitement and Mike, calm and composed, one might even wonder if they're related at all.



"I'm ambitious. I work hard. I don't get up from doing work unless it's done," says Myri, "But compared to Mike, I'm lazy!"

"No," Mike objects, "we work equally hard. She's just being humble."

Both of them are at the top of their classes with above average grades. They like to hang out and they share the same sense of humor. But apart from that, they're as different as night and day.

"I'm shyer and kinder, even though it doesn't look it," Mike smiles. He likes anything that has to do with computers. He spends his free time watching TV, surfing the net, or playing golf.

Myri, meanwhile, loves to talk to people and go out to have fun with friends. Now on her 10th year as student in Ecole de Ballet Manille she rehearses at least 7 hours a week after her classes and is also an officer in the Student Council.

Seeing that they are both achievers, do they get to be compared with each other a lot? They both agree that this is true, especially in terms of academics. During their younger years, it was tough being in the same class with each other. But now, it has grown into a healthy kind of competition. "Sometimes we have deals," says Myri, "Mike will say 'you do this for me, I'll do that for you.' So it works out for both of us."

Having a twin influences certain aspects of their lives. "He's my yardstick for friends," Myri says. "If he trusts one of my friends, I know that person can be trusted." And they both agree on what the best thing is about having a twin: you're born with an instant friend, an instant partner.

It is perhaps no accident that the two came to study in the same campus but different colleges. And how did this happen? Pursuing their own interests, Mike enrolled in Information Technology course at Insearch/ University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), while Myri took the Advertising and Public Relations Management course offered by London City College (LCC)—both of which are in Southville International School Affiliated with Foreign Universities (SISFU) in BF International, Las Piñas City.

Interestingly, SISFU is a pioneer in the *twinning program,* an exciting and revolutionary concept in globalized education. *Twinning* is characterized by a distinguished foreign university offering part of its degree program in another country. The courses offered in the local counterpart, such as SISFU, are the same courses offered in their foreign partner, using identical syllabi, course titles, texts, teaching formats and evaluation standards. Everything is the same, only the location is different.

"Students can move freely between the two colleges, and are in fact encouraged to do so," says Mr. Roger Bartholomew, the president of SISFU.

Through this *twinning* concept, students earn credits with automatic transfers to the foreign affiliate universities. In effect, students can complete their freshman or sophomore years without leaving their home country.

SISFU, with its twin thrusts of Academic and Values excellence, has partnered with three foreign institutions: London City College for its business courses, Insearch/University of Technology, Sydney for its computer courses, and IHMES, the International Hotel School for its program on hotel and restaurant management and culinary skills.

Asked why they close their colleges and their courses, the Myri attributes it partly to the influence of other people. "My brother always says I have the gift of gab. And maybe I also inherited my dad's artistic side—playing the piano, ballet—I wanted to go for the creative field, so I went for advertising and PR. And I must say I'm very, very happy with my decision. I love it here!" says Myri.

Mike, on the other hand, wants to be a programmer and he is now on his fourth semester in UTS. "The atmosphere in the school motivated me to study harder," says Mike. He enrolled in SISFU because he really wanted to study abroad. He is now scheduled to go to Australia next semester to complete his final year.

Now only on her second year, Myri already has a clearer sense of what business is all about and she has started to make plans for a bright future in the advertising industry.

Mike on the other hand is all set to go to Sydney to complete his bachelor's degree. He wants to eventually work in a PC game development house or some other related job.

No matter how different they may be, the Madamba twins are both looking for the same thing: job security. They want to know how to do things, to know something about the world. "And an international diploma will really take you places," Myri concludes.

For inquiries regarding the college and its programs, contact Joyce, Alexa or, Dianne at 820-5952, 820-9181, 825-5147, text them thru (0919) 652-4520, visit their website at www.sville.edu.ph/college/, or email them at sisfu@sville.edu.ph.

So do good deals come in twos? Twin achievers, twinning programs, and twin thrusts show us that to see *double* is actually to see our path to success in a *clearer* and *better* light.

Twinning in life and twinning in global education, as the Madamba twins can attest to, is a one-of-a-kind experience.

ADVT.

The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Spirit in a City

I believe that there still exist realities which can save Manila in spite of her gradual deterioration. I believe that a center for migrant youth can be one such reality.

Diocesan priest Fr. Ruben Villote is founder of Manila's Center for Migrant Youth. Here he explains how he understand, the link between Christian spirituality and engagement with the poor:

Q: Father Ben, how did you become involved as a priest with poor migrant youth?
A: Being a priest in the city has brought me face to face with the reality of migration. Migration, of course, is a global phenomenon brought about—according to Alvin Toffler—by the techno-industrial age. With migration must come the social problems of displacement, unemployment, exploitation and emotional stress (generated by rejection, loneliness and cruelty in the city).

The photojournalist Dodjie S. Osabel once wrote: "The city can be cruel and brutal. One can get lost in the cold and faceless mass. One can get lonely in a crowd. One can get cheated, beaten, exploited and abused. The wounded victim can retaliate with equal viciousness and ferocity. He can be violent to others ... and to himself."

Q: You are also known for your interest in what might be called "Filipino Christian spirituality." How do you see the tie-up between that and your engagement with migrant youth?
A: Perhaps precisely because of both my innate and acquired Filipino Christian spirituality, I refuse to believe that the city of Manila is absolutely dehumanized and uncaring. I believe that this city, in spite of her gradual deterioration, is still willing to be saved. She is still the City of Man, a city with a heart—a believing and redeemable city. In the bowels of this city there still exist realities which can save her.

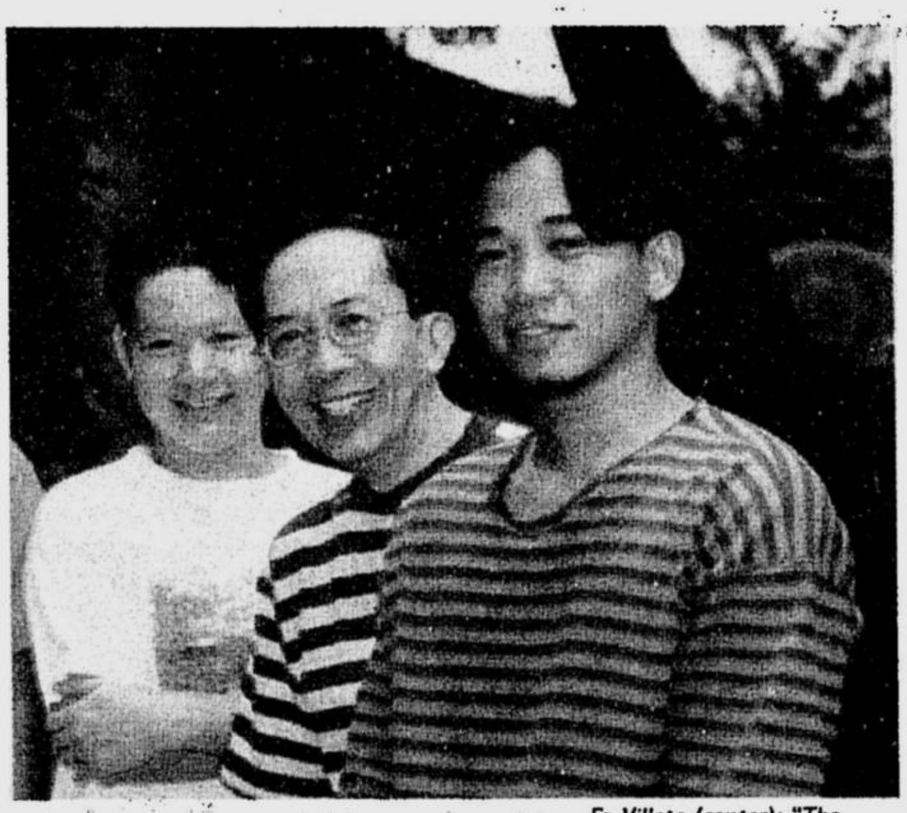
I believe that a center for migrant youth can be one such reality. To quote Osabel again: "The Center for Migrant Youth does not offer solutions to the problems of violence and injustice. It is simply a stability zone where strength and sanity are restored, where fear and suspicion give way to trust ... where human values are formed. Here, the migrant responds to the possibilities in life, and realizes that his suffering is only part of a bigger suffering. He becomes aware that the problems he faces require radical action towards social transformation ... that this radical action necessitates a personal conversion to the truth, and that in a negative situation of violence and injustice, non-violent action and the development of the positive human potential are imperative."

Q: Recently the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) published the Pastoral Letter "*Ang Landas ng Pagpapakabanal* (The Way to Holiness)." What struck you most about the bishops' approach to Filipino spirituality?
A: For me, the bishops' message is simply the official confirmation and validation of the folk religious practices of our parents in the basic ecclesial communities, especially in the rural areas. It is these folk Christian values that our migrant youth bring to the city; these values energize them with the spirit of the Gospels and make them "missionaries of sorts through their proclamation and witness."

The Pastoral Letter is a theological reflection on the folk Christian spirituality of the Filipino, in an attempt to understand and purify it, and to integrate it into the official catechetical mindset of the Church. This is the first time I have encountered Filipino bishops-in-conference talking about Filipino Christian spirituality like my lay Filipino theological mentors two decades ago, who were forbidden by their bishops then to talk the way our bishops now are talking!

Q: There is always the risk that people of goodwill will be discouraged by the enormity of the problem of poverty. Any practical suggestions on how to engage with poor migrant people?
A: I have always said that my ministry to the poor is not mere social work or a mere apostolate to solve a political or social problem, but rather a sign that God is present, enfleshed in the Church of the Poor, among the little ones, the hidden and the powerless, in the city. When Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor," he meant that there is so much treasure, so much blessedness and so many blessings in the poor and among the poor that we have yet to discover. There is indeed so much wisdom in the poor, so much beauty, so much power, so much of God in them. It is from the poor that we must receive. It is the poor who must teach, sanctify and change us. It is from among the poor that we can recover much of the dignity, faith, hope, power, excitement and sense of wonder that we have lost in the process of our techno-industrial miseducation.

Q: And the link between the challenge of evangelization in Asia and the situation of poverty of the vast majority of the inhabitants of this continent?
A: The challenge of evangelization in Asia is the challenge to "gaze at the wounds and pain of the poor" without fear or guilt. The Christian evangelist in Asia is not meant to be a mere social worker or a politician who can solve the problems of the poor only by treating the poor man *as a problem* to be solved and not as a person to be loved.



Fr. Villote (center): "The migrant responds to the possibilities in life"

The true Asian evangelist would not want to join the bandwagon of the worldly-wise in their agenda of power, wealth and spectacle. In the Third World where 70 percent of the people are poor and powerless, a suffering Servant-Church would appear more believable than a flag-waving triumphalist Church. The Philippine Bishops stressed: "... the Church now locates herself not on the periphery of man's pilgrimage but at the center of it; not as an alien behind cold institutional walls but as the sacrament of salvation embedded within the flesh of humanity" (*On Evangelization and Development*).

In the context of Asia, the "flesh of humanity" is found predominantly among the poor: workers, farmers, market vendors, slum dwellers, migrants, prisoners—and those whom the rest of society consider as "useless." They are the marginalized at the foot of Mount Tabor, waiting, suffering, groaning for the day when God will deliver his children from slavery, pain and decay—and will share with them "the glorious freedom of the children of God" (cf. Rom. 8:18-25).

Church leaders who have opted to live what they call the "alternative lifestyle of voluntary poverty and participative struggle" with the poor usually find themselves serving not only as worship ministers but also as defenders of the exploited poor. And should the exploiters of the poor gang up on the Church again as the emperors did in the first and second centuries, the People of God will have to demonstrate their power by facing the lions afresh. And for the Church that will be the beginning of her Second Spring.

Reprinted from The World Mission Magazine, January 2000

The Center for Migrant Youth (CMY) will be 19 years old on September 2001. There will be no one grand outdoor celebration this year as in previous years. Instead, there will be three little indoor Eucharistic Sunday Celebrations on September 2, 9 and 16 at 8:30 a.m. at CMY on 103 Cordillera St. (QC), followed by the usual Sunday breakfast fellowship with the poor. We shall mark these marathon events with gladness, gratitude and simplicity.

COVER STORY...from page 9

Pet projects: "I want to have a museum that is interactive, with push buttons and all. Not just a repository or old T-shirts. I found out that the one in the Quezon Memorial has no lights. What a shame. I want all high schools to have computer education programs. I've started this in the 4th district."

On land and housing for the poor: "Here's a challenge for architects. If they could build a P10-million house, they should be able to do a P10-thousand house, well ventilated. My friends laugh when I talk about this.

"Last Sunday I was with the Vincentian Fathers in Bagong Silangan. These priests are super-super, they put their money where their mouths are. With Habitat they're building units worth P70 thousand each. I promised to donate P210, 000 from my own pocket for three units.

"I have made representation with the national government that awarding to the landless of national government properties in sensitive portions of QC not be done in an as-is-where-is basis, but in consultation with us. Development should not be done at the expense of QC. The President said yes."

On the 2002 Payatas tragedy: "It was bound to happen. There was no one in charge. My dream for QC would not be complete without Payatas and Novaliches in it. I want them to feel that being part of QC is worth it. I'm so proud to learn that my daughter Joy (an archaeologist) has been to Payatas and people there know her."

On garbage: "It is said that Philippine garbage is the most handled and extracted of recyclables.

"We have to have a solid waste plan. First we have to pay some of the payables that date back to 1999, so we could exact better services. We have to reduce the number of people we deal with for better supervision. Right now there are 16 different contractors.

Then we have to make sure Payatas is for QC's use only. We've closed it from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m. to prevent other cities from using it. The Litex road leading to Payatas that has more than 60 junk shops has been cleared. We've made some improvements there, like security fencing and direction of canals. Payatas is good for another two years during which we have to look for alternatives.

The main objection to Payatas is that it endangers the watershed and La Mesa dam. For now Payatas is going to be a temporary dumpsite, a managed dumpsite. There is a team of engineers there."

Solutions to the garbage problem: "We have to wind down Payatas and shut it down in two years. We could make that a recycling center or a transfer station, not an open dumpsite like it is now. There are technological breakthroughs now. Garbage could be converted into energy.

"You know, with the exception of Valenzuela City, which has a landfill, everybody is left to his own device. Where do they dump? You find out. It's a big story. We have not done police work on garbage. We have to tighten up. Where does the deleterious hospital waste go?

"This coming year we hope to completely solve the garbage collection problem. The remaining problem is what to do with it. We've received offers from technologically advanced companies with machines to speed up composting. We deliver everything to them. We have offers and options. One is physical transfer of the site far from Metro Manila. No change in technology. The second is applying in earnest zero waste management. There are companies that could do this for us. The third is using the technological breakthroughs, converting garbage to electricity. Sounds too good to be true so we're still looking at the first two."

Team to beat: Belmonte with his vice-mayor, Herbert Bautista (left)

Crime in QC: "It's bad, they say. There are many flops in QC. At the end of the day, all I want to see for now is that people comply with the law."

The biggest problem? "A lot of things don't work in QC for the simple reason that there is not enough money. The tax collection system is full of holes. You can't do much with good intentions alone. At the core of it — I want to improve QC based on a sound financial basis. There was corruption, neglect, people weren't that involved. QC was utopia for them.

"For example, I want the issuance of permits done faster. I said, if we can't do it here, there is nothing we can do at all. They took the challenge. This impacts on business. We want people to do business in QC.

"In tax collection I want to get people working. We recently gave awards to three examinees. They had never been recognized before."

On his management style: "There should be good management at the top. Sure, we have to stamp out the big fires, but fix the center first. I'm hands-on. I don't easily sign papers. I learned this in Customs. There you had to see with your eyes. You could not trust the next guy.

"At GSIS and PAL I was surrounded by good people. I gave them a chance to shine. I won't be surprised if some of those I have to deal with here are the most venal. But I'll give them a chance to shine."

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

This Week

Art

Elaine Roberto-Navas exhibits her new series of landscapes until today at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall.

Sculptures 2.2, an exhibit featuring the works of 22 sculptors at the Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's lobby Art Café until Sept. 4.

Ten, an exhibit celebrating 10 years of published and unpublished works by members of the *Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan* at the Upper Level Galleries of the Met Museum, Roxas Boulevard, Manila until Sept. 1.

"Si Diwayen – Noong Bago Dumating ang mga Kastila" by Paolo Lim, on exhibit at the Met Museum

Unparalleled, an exhibit of mixed media works by Eugene Jarque at the Avellana Art Gallery, 220 Fresno Road, Pasay City. For details, call 522-9793.

Rodgie Gapayao holds his first solo exhibit at Antonelli's Ristorante, Yakal Street, Makati until Aug. 31.

9 Objects, an exhibit that pays homage to French artist Marcel Duchamp's work, ongoing at the Alliance Francaise de Manille until Sept. 1.

The Gallery of the Madrigal Art Center in Ayala Alabang presents Anting Anting in their third group exhibition until Aug. 30. For details, call 842-0127.

Echoes, an exhibit of paintings and sculptures by Jardiniano and Lofranco until Aug. 28 at the Boston Gallery, 72-A Boston St., Cubao, QC.

Iba't-Ibang Kamay, Iisang Buhay ... Filipino, a hands-on exhibit featuring traditional arts and handmade crafts from different parts of the Philippines, will be launched on Aug. 30, 6 p.m. at Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Music

Australian pianist **Ali Wood** will perform at the CCP Little Theater on Aug. 24 and 25, 7:30 p.m. at the CCP Little Theater. Tickets at P800 and P600. For inquiries, call 8732440 or 8735714.

Novo Concertante celebrates two years of creating beautiful music with an anniversary concert on Aug. 25, 7 p.m. at the Abelardo Hall of the UP College of Music in Diliman. Tickets available at the gate or call 0919-6637930.

Freestyle will hold two special concerts at Padi's Mindave (Mindanao and Congressional Avenues, QC) on Aug. 22 and 27, while Anna Fegi performs on Aug. 30. Padi's also invites college students to join its essay writing competition in English, not exceeding 2,000 words with the theme "Vision of the Philippines in Year 2050." Deadline is Nov. 5. For details, call 453-0080 or 414-4930 to 34.

Hard Rock Café's musical treats: RJ and the New Riots on Aug. 19; Asciano on Aug. 25; Cayuk's on Aug. 23; 9 MM on Aug. 24; Parokya ni Edgar stages a full-length concert also on Aug. 24; and on Aug. 30, WRock and E! Philippines presents the Latin Grammy's 2001. For details, call 893-4661 to 63.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Crave, Sarah Kane's surrealistic cornucopia of searing and shocking images of woman's abuse, male violence, power and desire as interpreted by Anton Juan, goes onstage at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, UP Diliman from Aug. 22 until September. For inquiries, call 924-8589 and 924-3224.

Ten Little Indians, Agatha Christie's mystery thriller, will be staged by Repertory Philippines at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City from Aug. 23 to Sept. 2. For details, call 633-4821 to 25.

Cinema

Anime on Parade, a showcase of full-length animation films, kicks off on Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. at the UP Film Center. The line-up of films includes "Akira," "Night on the Galactic Railroad," "The White Snake," "Madcap Island" and "Tombstone for Fireflies." For details, call 811-6155 to 58.

Light and Shadow, a festival of contemporary British films, ongoing until Aug. 22 at Shangri-La Plaza Mall Cinema 2. Featured films are "Love's Labours," "Wild About Harry," "Wonderland," "Hotel Splendide," "Saving Grace" and "Pure Belter." For film schedules, call 633-7851 loc. 106.

Atbp

The Lopez Museum Children's Art Workshop offers drawing, painting, terracotta sculpture and papier mache making from Aug. 25 to Oct. 27 for kids 5-12. For details, call 631-417 or 635-9545.

Wellcom-Miss Global Philippines 2001, a beauty pageant open to girls 18-21 years old and at least 5'5" tall. Preliminary screening is on Sept. 1-2 at Limits Disco while final screening will be on Sept. 15. The finals night competition is set on Oct. 28 at the AFP Theater. Application forms are available at all Wellcom Telecom Supermarket franchise outlets and at the Saga Productions office. For details, call 638-2937 and 631-8097.

The Journalists' Rules of Thumb, a free basic newsletter writing seminar for writers from trade unions, urban poor communities and student councils, Aug. 25-26 at 91 Masikap Ext., Brgy. Central, QC. For details, call 433-8377 and 0919-75251 19.

Celebration of the Creative Filipino, a month-long campaign in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts that includes a book launch and lectures on Philippine arts and culture in select branches of National Bookstore and Powerbooks which are open to the public. For details, call 844-4455 and 671-9235.

The Philippine Educational Theater Association Playwrights Development Program invites aspiring and established playwrights to join its bimonthly **Writers Bloc sessions** held every other Sunday at the Peta office, 61 Lantana St., Bgy. Immaculate Conception, Cubao, QC from 2 to 5 p.m. Sessions are free. For details, call 410-0822 and 724-9637.

P100 creative writing workshop from Pinoywriters.com and Goodwill Bookstore: Discover Your Unique Writing Voice, Aug. 25, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. For details, call Roland at 752-2737 or email roland@electromedia.ph.

Fitness Management & Consultancy in cooperation with Philippine Bodybuilding Sports Federation invites all bodybuilding instructors and athletes to attend the Bodybuilding Seminar today at 12 noon at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Lecture Room, Medicine Building Intramuros, Manila. Registration fee is P100.

The American Studies Association of the Philippines will hold an international conference on the theme Back to the Future: Perspectives on the Thomasites Legacy to Philippine Education on Aug. 24-25 at the Escaler Hall, Ateneo de Manila University. For details, call 926-3496 and 920-5301 loc. 7236.

Catholic Engaged Encounter, a marriage preparation program conducted in a weekend format and given to couples preparing for marriage, announces its schedule for the year: Aug. 24-26; Sept. 28-30; Oct. 26-28 and Nov. 23-25 at the Manresa Retreat House, Del Monte, QC. For details, call Fr. Dave Clay at 523-3361.

The Filipinas Heritage Library will host Future Tense: Science Fiction Writing in the Philippine Scenario on four consecutive Wednesdays: Aug. 22, 29, Sept. 5 and 12, 6 to 9 p.m. Workshop fee is P2,500 and is inclusive of materials and certificates. For details, call 892-1801.

The Heritage Conservation Society will hold a *Sining Sabado* Art Class at the Casa Manila, Intramuros on Aug. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lessons will focus on landscape, interior rendering and the history of the site. There will also be an afternoon walking tour of Casa Manila from 2-4 p.m. For details, call 521-2239 or 522-2497.

Petron Corporation launches Pump-A-Prize, an instant win and raffle promo that gives motorists a chance to take home a brand new car, win a trip abroad and cash prizes. Every P300 single or accumulated purchase of Blaze, XCS Plus, XCS Unleaded, Regular Gasoline, Diesel Max or Kerosene at any participating Metro Manila station, entitles motorists to a game card for a chance to win instant prizes and qualify for the raffle draw. Deadline for submission of entries is Sept. 30, while raffle draw date is Oct. 14. For inquiries, email connect@petron.com.

X-manila

2nd Reiki Healing Rally is set on Aug. 25, 1 p.m. at Ped Plaza Business Center, Brgy. Ermita, Balayan, Batangas and on Aug. 26; 8 a.m. at Palacio Beach Pavilion, Sta. Ana, Calatagan, Batangas. Reiki healings are given every Sunday, 4 to 5 p.m. at 2272 Cervera St., Makati City and at 14 Verbena St., Rivera Village, Pasay City. For details, call 522-6383 893-4520 or (043) 921-2982.

Mirandolina: Ang Senyora ng Otel, Tanghalang Ateneo's production of Carlo Goldoni's comedy about a woman's playful revenge against an avowed misogynist, goes on tour in Tarlac on Aug. 24-25, 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Subsequent performances in Pampanga, Dagupan and Metro Manila are scheduled for October and November. For inquiries, call 426-6001 loc. 5331.

The Philippine Prosthodontic Society together with Parañaque Dental Chapter invites all interested dentists to a **Complete Denture Live-in Seminar** with Wet Table Clinics on Aug. 26-28 at La Corona Hotel & Restaurant in Pagsanjan, Laguna. For inquiries, call 561-7874 and 809-1678.

Mae Felicia D. Ruiz is currently holding an art exhibit at the lobby of Lantaka Hotel in Zamboanga City. She also conducts art/painting classes at the hotel.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.